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Spring Field Report, March-May 1996

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SPRING FIELD REPORT, MARCH-MAY 1996

Compiled by

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This was an interesting spring season, with something for everyone. Interesting data in terms of numbers are being produced by the North American Migration Count (NAMC), especially this spring in Sarpy County; examples are 499 Swainson's Thrushes, 76 Gray-cheeked Thrushes, and 118 Black-and-white Warblers, and others. Some species appeared in large numbers such as 5000 Western Grebes, 16 Clark's Grebes, 10,000 Wilson's Phalaropes, 300 each of Black-bellied Plover and Sanderling, 54 Whimbrels, and two flocks of over 100 Great-tailed Grackles.

Some interesting early and late dates are included in the species accounts, but several observers noted unexpected species such as Indigo Bunting and Rose-breasted Grosbeak, at feeders; this may have been due to the cold, wet spring keeping insect numbers at a low level. It may have also brought Painted Buntings to our notice at feeders.

There are some amazing rarities too, foremost an Acorn Woodpecker near Chambers and a Common Crane in Hall and Adams Cos. Another Neotropic Cormorant was found (Chambers picnic-

table effect?), as well as Painted Buntings and another round of rare, but rapidly becoming not-so-rare, gulls at L McConaughy. Readers who wonder how I suddenly became knowledgeable on shorebirds can thank Joel Jorgensen, who summarized Nebraska data on this interesting group.

ADDENDUM AND CORRIGENDUM

The sighting of 2 adult Short-billed Dowitchers at Jack Sinn WMA on 8 Oct 1995 (NBR 63 (4), p. 103) should be deleted; it was a typo on my part. I also made an error of fact in stating that Pine Siskins are "not known to summer" in Thomas Co (NBR 63 (4), p. 113); Tanya Bray has indicated that indeed they do (Bray, MS Thesis, 1994).

ABBREVIATIONS

Co(s)= County(ies); CLNWR= Crescent L NWR; FFNC= Fontenelle Forest Nature center; L= Lake; LM= L. McConaughy; mob= many observers; n,s,e,w= cardinal directions; NAMC= North American Migration Count; NE= Nebraska; NOU= Nebraska Ornithologists' Union; NOURC= NOU Records Committee; NPNWR= North Platte NWR; NWR= National Wildlife Refuge; Res= Reservoir; SL= Sewage Lagoons; SP= State Park; SRA= State Recreation Area; WMA= Wildlife Management Area; WPA= Waterfowl Production Area.

GAZETTEER

Sites are listed below followed by counties in parentheses.

Arbor Day Farm (Otoe); Arbor L WMA (Lancaster); Ayr L (Adams); Branched Oak SRA (Lancaster); Buckskin L (Dixon); Cedar Island (Sarpy); Clear Creek WMA (Garden-Keith); CLNWR (Garden); Crystal Cove L (Dakota); Crystal L (Dakota); Cunningham L (Douglas); Dead Timber SRA (Dodge); DeSoto Bend NWR (Washington); England Res (Burt); Facus Springs (Morrill); Fahrenholz Ponds (Dixon); Fort Kearney SRA (Kearney); Funk Lagoon WPA (Phelps); Gavin's Point Dam (Knox-Cedar); Gilbert-Baker WMA (Sioux); Gleason Lagoon WPA (Kearney); Goose L WMA (Holt); Hansen Lagoon WPA (Clay); Harlan Co Res (Harlan); Harold W. Andersen WMA (Howard); Harvard Marsh WPA (Clay); Holmes L (Lancaster); Indian Cave SP (Nemaha-Richardson); Jack Sinn WMA (Lancaster-Saunders); James Ranch (Sioux); Jensen Lagoon WPA (Kearney); Kirkpatrick WMA (York); Kissinger Basin WMA (Clay); Little Blue WMA (Thayer); LM (Keith); Mallard Haven WPA (Fillmore); Massie Lagoon WPA (Clay); Memphis L SRA (Cass); L Minatare (Scotts Bluff); Mormon Island SRA (Hall); Nathan's L (Washington); Neale Woods (Douglas-Washington); Niobrara Valley Preserve (Cherry-Keya Paha-Brown); NPNWR (Scotts Bluff); Offutt Base L (Sarpy); L Ogallala (Keith); Oliver Res SRA (Kimball); Pawnee L SRA (Lancaster); Pibel L SRA (Wheeler); Pine Ridge (escarpment in Sioux, Dawes, Sheridan); Platte River SP (Cass); Rainwater Basin (wetland complex s of Platte R from Phelps to York and s to Fillmore Cos); Rowe Sanctuary (Kearney); Rulo Bluffs Preserve (Richardson); Sacramento-Wilcox WMA (Phelps); Sandpiper WPA (Clay); Schramm Park SRA (Sarpy); Stagecoach L (Lancaster); Standing Bear L (Douglas); Stateline Marsh WMA (Scotts Bluff); Summit Res SRA (Burt); Theesen Lagoon WPA (Clay); Two Rivers SP (Douglas); Valentine NWR (Cherry); Wagontrain L (Lancaster); Wehrspann L (Sarpy); Wildcat Hills SRA (Scotts Bluff-Banner); Wild Rose Ranch (Kearney); Willow Creek SRA (Pierce); Wolf L (n Saunders); Wood Duck WMA (Stanton); L Yankton (Cedar); Youngson Lagoon WPA (Kearney); Zorinsky L (Douglas).

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Note: If no reports were received of a Regular species, this is noted. Reports received without identification details when these are required according to the new NOU Field Card will be so annotated; observers involved are encouraged to forward details on these reports to me or the NOU Records Committee as soon as possible.

* = documentation supplied.

Common Loon: First were 4 at Offutt Base L on 3 Apr (BP,LP,RBa), best count was 8 at LM on 12 May (SJD), and last was 1 at Buckskin L 29 May (JJo), rather late for e NE. Only 15 were reported.

Pied-billed Grebe: First was rather early at Wolf L 2 Mar (THo), and best counts 86 at Zorinsky L (JGJ) 24 Apr and 30 at Crystal L 29 Apr (BFH). In the west, first was at NPNWR 19 Apr (LKo).

Horned Grebe: First was 1 at Standing Bear L 24 Mar (JGJ), and best counts 13 at Cunningham L 24 Apr (JGJ) and 8 at CLNWR 23 Apr (LMa). Last were a surprising 5 as late as 29 May at Buckskin L (JJo) and 1 at Offutt Base L 15 May (RBa).

Eared Grebe: First were singles at Stagecoach L (LEi) and CLNWR (LMa,MFr) on 27 Mar; best counts 357 at CLNWR on 28 May (MFr), and in e NE 39 on 27 Apr at Stagecoach L (LEi). Last in e NE, where it does not breed, were 1 at Stagecoach L 18 May (LEi) and 12 at Fahrenholz Ponds 11 May (JJo).

Western Grebe: First were 3 at CLNWR on 15 Apr (MFr). Best counts were an impressive 5000+ at LM 12 May (SJD), dwarfing the 62 at NPNWR 14 May (LKo). Easterly were singles at Valley 13 May (JGJ) and in s Dodge Co 15 May (EPa). Last reported were 13 at NPNWR on 30 May (LKo).

Clark's Grebe: Of interest at a now-regular breeding site for this species, a record count of 16 was made at LM 12 May (SJD).

American White Pelican: First were 3 at Funk Lagoon WPA on 23 Mar (LR,RH). Best counts were 1000 at Branched Oak SRA 12 Apr (LEi) and 900 at Funk Lagoon WPA 14 Apr (LR,RH). Last were 75 at Wagontrain L 18 May (LEi) and 100 in Hall Co 11 May (LR,RH). Best count in w NE was 183 at CLNWR 15 Apr (MFr).

Double-crested Cormorant: First were 2 in Lancaster Co 16 Mar (LEi). Best counts were also in Lancaster Co, with 1450 on 18 Apr and 1100 on 12 Apr (LEi), and, in w NE, only 46, at CLNWR on 22 May (LMa). A few immatures lingered through the end of the period, as expected.

Neotropic Cormorant: Nebraska's 4th was near Chambers 20-29 May (*JGJ,*WRS, mob); one observer (RBa) described it as a subadult. Late spring and summer cormorants should be checked carefully, as this species will probably appear with some regularity.

American Bittern: First was rather early at CLNWR 2 Apr (MFr); a good count of 11 was there 29 May (MFr). Elsewhere, it was reported in Phelps Co in mid-May (NOU) and 1 was "singing" at Goose L WMA 20 May (WRS,JGJ).

Least Bittern: None were reported.

Great Blue Heron: First were a single at NPNWR on 13 Mar (LMa) and 5 in Lancaster Co 16 Mar (LEi). Best count was 50 at CLNWR on 10 Apr (MFr).

Great Egret: First were 4 at Wagontrain L 30 Mar (LEi) and 1 at Jensen Lagoon WPA 31 Mar (LR,RH). Best counts were 30+ near Nebraska City 30 May (LF,CF) and 20 at Pawnee L SRA 4 May (LEi). The Nebraska City birds were part of an aggregation of herons drawn by the high water levels along the Missouri R. It was suggested (LF) that these late May birds may be post-breeding dispersers; indeed, Great Egret nests along the Gulf Coast in Jan-Feb (Palmer, Handbook of North American Birds 1962). Another late bird was in

Adams Co 27 May (GJK).

Snowy Egret: A regular migrant in low numbers, about 8 were reported, with best count 2 near Schramm Park SRA 18 May (JMo). First was at Fahrenholz Ponds 24 Apr (JJo) and last 1 at CLNWR 25 May (MFr), the only w NE report, where the species is uncommon.

Little Blue Heron: This was a good spring for this uncommon migrant; about 24 were reported, including a remarkable 9 adults and 6 immatures near Nebraska City 30 May (LF,CF). The observer suggested that these might be post-breeding dispersers, but I was unable to find evidence that Little Blue Heron is a winter nester in the United States. Elsewhere, first were 4 adults at Sandpiper WPA 17 May (JGJ); an immature was there 18 May (JGJ). None were reported from w NE.

Cattle Egret: Another heron which appeared in good numbers, notably the 140 near Nebraska City 30 May roosting with Great Egrets and Little Blue Herons (LF,CF). I was unable to find evidence for winter nesting in the United States for this species. Other good counts were 50 near Lincoln 10 May (LEi) and 50 in Wheeler Co 20 May (NR). First were 4 at Stagecoach L 18 Apr (LEi). In w NE 2-3 were at CLNWR 8-14 May (MFr,LMa) and 1 was in s Sioux Co 27 May-2 Jun (HKH).

Green Heron: First was rather early in Sarpy Co 22 Apr (RBa), followed by 1 in s Lancaster Co 4 May (LEi). Best counts were 12 at Wolf L 27 May (THo) and 6 in sw Hall Co 11 May (LR,RH). Westerly were singles se of Gibbon 5 May (LR,RH) and near Poole 8 May (LR,RH).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: First were singles at Wolf L on 6 Apr (THo) and at Branched Oak SRA 7 Apr (JGJ). Best counts were 16 at Harvard Marsh WPA 5 May (WRS) and 7 at CLNWR 18 May (MFr).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: The only reports were of 1 in Phelps Co in mid-May (NOU), another at Stagecoach L 18 May (LEi), and 3 in Lincoln at Wilderness Park 18 May (LEi).

Glossy Ibis: A report was received without details 26 Apr in the Rainwater Basin; this sighting is likely a basic-plumaged White-faced Ibis. There are no documented records of Glossy Ibis for NE, although it has been recorded in adjacent Fremont Co, Iowa.

White-faced Ibis: First were 6 at Funk Lagoon WPA 21 Apr (LR,RH) and 3 in Sheridan Co 22 Apr (LMa). Best count was 6-7 at Clear Creek WMA 12-17 May (SJD,LMa). Last were 2 at Funk Lagoon WPA 19 May (BP,LP).

Tundra Swan: The only report was of 5 at Wood Duck WMA 11-13 Mar (JJo); no details were provided.

Trumpeter Swan: Best count was 6 at CLNWR on 1 Apr (MFr); birds at nesting locations were 4 at Doc L, near Whitman, 31 Mar (NR) and 2 w of Hyannis at mile marker 142 on 22 May (BP,LP).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Best counts were 760 in Lincoln Co 1 Apr (LMa), a rather low high for the entire migration, and 450 in Lancaster Co 16 Mar (LEi). Last were in Phelps and Hall Cos in mid-May (NOU) and at Valentine NWR 17 May (RDL).

Snow Goose: Best count for the migration was 100,000 at Funk Lagoon WPA 15 Mar (LR,RH). Elsewhere, 4700 were at L Minatare 2 Mar (LMa) and 5000 at Wagontrain L 27 Mar (LEi). Most had departed Funk Lagoon WPA by 14 Apr (LR,RH). The usual stragglers were noted, including 3 "apparently injured" at Wagontrain L into Jun (LEi).

Ross' Goose: Best counts were 33 at Summit Res 13 Mar and 17 at England Res the same day (JGJ). At Funk Lagoon WPA 5-8 were present through 21 Apr, the last date (LR,RH,mob), and, in w NE, 2-4 were at NPNWR 10-13 Mar (LMa).

Canada Goose: Best count was 3509 at NPNWR 4 Mar; only 215 were there 30 May (LKo). Dispersal of resident flocks for nesting occurs by late Mar; first young noted were 5 downies at Crystal Cove L 25

Apr (BFH).

Wood Duck: First were 2 at Branched Oak SRA 9 Mar (RBa). Best counts were 84 at Cunningham L 24 Mar (JGJ) and 62 at NPNWR on 1 May (LKo).

Green-winged Teal: Large numbers were reported from w NE, with best count 815 at NPNWR 14 Apr (LMa). Best in e NE were 74 in s Lancaster Co 16 Mar (LEi) and 70 at Harvard Marsh WPA 5 May (WRS). At NPNWR 208 were still present 1 May (LKo), but last were in sw Hall Co 11 May (LR,RH) and 15 at Arbor L WMA 8 May (LEi). Few breed in NE.

American Black Duck: None were reported; this species is rare in spring.

Mallard: Best count of 9769 at NPNWR on 3 Apr (LKo) was lower than the high of 14,886 there in Feb. High at CLNWR was only 127, on 15 Apr (MFr), while about 100 were in the eastern Rainwater Basin 5 May (WRS).

Northern Pintail: Best count for spring migration was 12,000 at Funk Lagoon WPA 2 Mar; most had gone by 23 Mar (LR,RH). Elsewhere best counts were 1102 at Memphis L SRA 2 Mar (NR) and 848 at NPNWR on 3 Apr (LKo); only 4 were at the latter location 1 May (LKo). About 150 were in the Rainwater Basin 5 May (WRS).

Blue-winged Teal: First was at Summit Res 13 Mar (JGJ), and 4 were at Funk Lagoon WPA 15 Mar (LR,RH). In w NE 8 were first at CLNWR 9 Apr (MFr). Best counts were 1825 at CLNWR 23 Apr (LMa) and 600 in the Rainwater Basin 5 May (WRS). Last breeding location to be occupied may have been Carter P. Johnson L at Fort Robinson SP on 15 May (SLe).

Cinnamon Teal: First was a single at Funk Lagoon WPA 17 Mar (NR,LR,RH), and in w NE 2 were at CLNWR 1 Apr (MFr). Best counts were 6 at CLNWR 28 May (MFr) and 5 in the Rainwater Basin 20 Apr (JGJ), the latter the last date there. Easterly were a male at FF 7 Apr (BP,LP) for the second year running, and 2 at Wolf L 27 Apr (THo).

Northern Shoveler: Best counts for spring migration were in w NE, with 1210 at CLNWR 26 Mar (LMa) and 801 at NPNWR 1 May (LKo). Best e NE count was 100 at the Wayne SL on 19 Apr (JJo). First in w NE was at CLNWR 4 Mar (LMa). Last in se NE were 21 in Lancaster Co 21 May (LEi).

Gadwall: Best counts were 1750 at CLNWR on 23 Apr (LMa), declining to about 100 by late May (LMa,MFr). In e NE, best count was 179 in Lancaster Co 16 Mar (LEi), and last were 3 at Wagontrain L 10 May (LEi).

Eurasian Wigeon: The only report was of a male at Harvard Marsh WPA 27 Apr (JGJ); this species is probably a regular spring migrant in the Rainwater Basin.

American Wigeon: Best count was 694 at NPNWR 3 Apr (LKo); elsewhere 300 were at Funk Lagoon WPA on 23 Mar (LR,RH) and 200 were at Wagontrain L 27 Mar (LEi). As early as 2 Mar 51 were at Memphis L SRA (NR). Last in se NE was 1 at Stagecoach L 18 May (LEi).

Canvasback: Best spring migration counts were 600 in n Grant Co 31 Mar (NR), 270 at CLNWR 27 Mar (LMa) and 100 at Stagecoach L 3 Apr (LEi). Last in se NE were 2 at Funk Lagoon WPA 28 Apr (LR,RH).

Redhead: Best spring migration count was 4527 at NPNWR 4 Mar (LKo). Elsewhere, 682 were counted in sw Sheridan Co 31 Mar (NR), 200 were at Funk Lagoon WPA 15 Mar (LR,RH), and 160 were in Lancaster Co 16 Mar (LEi) and at Cunningham L 12 Mar (NR). Last in se NE were 4 at Wild Rose Ranch 17 May (NR) and 2 at Holmes L 11 May (LEi).

Ring-necked Duck: Rather late for a high spring count were 334 at NPNWR on 1 May (LKo). Elsewhere 175 were in Otoe Co 29 Mar (LF,CF) and 160 at Zorinsky L 13 Mar (JGJ). Rare in summer, 7 were still at CLNWR 28 May (MFr) and it was noted in sw Cherry Co 24 May (SWi);

last in se NE was 1 at Harvard Marsh WPA 5 May (WRS).

Greater Scaup: "More than usual" (RBa) appeared this year; about 22 were reported for this period, last 1 at Standing Bear L 17 Apr (JGJ). Best count was 6 at Wehrspann L 12 Mar (RBa); 5 were there 4 Apr (JGJ).

Lesser Scaup: Best counts were 1760 at CLNWR on 23 Apr (LMa) and 430 in Lancaster Co 27 Mar (LEi). In se NE 3 were at Nathan's L 25 May (JGJ,WRS) and a few were still at Stagecoach L into Jun (LEi). **Oldsquaw:** None were reported; spring reports are few.

Common Goldeneye: Best count was 92 at NPNWR on 4 Mar (LKo). Last were 2 there on the very late date of 14 May (LKo). Elsewhere, 1 was at Branched Oak SRA 27 Apr (JGJ) and another at CLNWR 23 Apr (LMa).

Bufflehead: A rather late migrant for a diving duck, best spring migration counts were 285 at CLNWR on 8 May (LMa) and 65 at Stagecoach L 27 Mar (LEi). Last in se NE were 5 at Offutt Base L 13 May (RBa).

Hooded Merganser: Best count was an impressive 31 at Crystal Cove L on 27 Mar (BFH); 12 were at Funk Lagoon WPA 30 Mar (LR,RH) and in Lancaster Co 16 Mar (LEi). Late birds were a female or immature at DeSoto Bend NWR 28 May (JGJ) and another in Clay Co 17 May (JGJ). Westerly were 3 at CLNWR on 1 May (MFr).

Common Merganser: Best counts were 756 at NPNWR on 19 Mar (LKo) and 323 in Lancaster Co 16 Mar (LEi). Last in e NE was 1 at Harlan Co Res 28 Apr (JGJ), and, in w NE, a male was still at Oliver Res SRA 20 May (BP,LP) and 16 were at L Ogallala 12 May (SJD).

Red-breasted Merganser: Rather uncommon in NE, arriving later than other mergansers, first was 1 at Branched Oak SRA 16 Mar (JGJ), followed by 7 at Funk Lagoon WPA on 23 Mar (LR,RH). Westerly were 14 at LM on 1 Apr (LMa), also the latest and best count.

Ruddy Duck: First (other than a Feb report- see Winter) were 1 at CLNWR on 12 Mar (MFr) and 3 at Zorinsky L 13 Mar (NR). Best counts were 300 at Funk Lagoon WPA on 14 Apr (LR,RH) and 211 at CLNWR on 28 May (MFr). Last in se NE were singles at Stagecoach L (LEi) and at Sandpiper WPA (WRS), both on 18 May.

Turkey Vulture: First by far were in the se, with 1 at Nebraska City 12 Mar (LF,CF) and another in Cass Co 18 Mar (KDG,GWo); first in c NE were 2 in Franklin Co 6 Apr (RH,LR) and in w NE 1 was near Gering 8 Apr (AKe). One was nesting in a hollow log beside a trail in the Niobrara Valley Preserve 26 May (SWi).

Osprey: First was at Indian Cave SP 12 Apr (RBa); best count was 5 at Branched Oak SRA 28 Apr (JGJ), and last 3 in Lancaster Co 4 May (LEi) and a rather late bird at Pibel L SRA 29 May (BP,LP).

Bald Eagle: Most leave in Mar; last in se NE was 1 at FF on 7 Apr (BP,LP). At NPNWR, a breeding location, 4 remained as late as 30 May (LKo,LMa), and 3 were at CLNWR 25 May (MFr). The only report of nesting was of 2-3 chicks 2-3 weeks old on 20 Apr in Holt Co (JJo).

Northern Harrier: Nesting occurs at CLNWR, where 4 were noted 22 May (MFr). Suggestive of nesting was a late bird 30 May in Dixon Co (JJo); also rather late was 1 near Gibbon 9 May (LR,RH). Best count was 8 at Funk Lagoon WPA 14 Apr (LR,RH). Last in se NE were 2 in Lancaster Co 18 Apr (LEi).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Best counts were 3 on 30 Apr at CLNWR (MFr) and at Schramm Park SRA 6 May (BP,LP). Last was in Kearney Co in mid-May (NOU), rather late, except for another s of Gering 27 May (AKe); it summers in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Cooper's Hawk: Best count was 4 at CLNWR on 14 Apr (MFr). A female was on a nest at Platte River SP 8 May (JMo), but no breeding evidence was noted for 2 in Hall Co 11 May (LR,RH).

Northern Goshawk: None were reported; spring records are few.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Unexpected by location and date, 1 was at the

highway 183 crossing of the Platte River 14 Mar (CDr). The other reports were of 2 at the usual location, FF, 8 and 25 Apr (NR,BP,LP).

Broad-winged Hawk: As is usual in spring, few were reported. Unexpected was 1 far to the w at CLNWR 22 Apr (MFr); this species is rare in w NE. Also rather far w was 1 in Buffalo Co 26 Apr (LR,RH). A bird carrying a rabbit in Lincoln 17 May (LEi) was probably nesting. In Sarpy Co 5 were counted 11 May (NAMC); migrants, mainly young birds, may still be passing through at this time (Robbins and Easterla, Birds of Missouri 1992).

Swainson's Hawk: Migrants appeared very early in se NE, especially 1 reported without details in Otoe Co 10 Mar (LF,CF), followed by 6 over FF 26 Mar (RBa). First in w NE was near Gering 22 Apr (AKe). Best count was only 6, in Holt Co 20 Apr (JJo).

Red-tailed Hawk: The only concentration noted was 17 around LM on 1 Apr (LMa).

Ferruginous Hawk: Few were reported, most easterly at Valentine NWR 17 May (RDL), where it is rare at this date. At CLNWR, within the breeding range, 2-3 were present during May (LMa,MFr).

Rough-legged Hawk: Most departed by the end of Mar; last in se NE was at Harvard Marsh WPA 21 Mar (BP,LP), but 1 lingered at CLNWR until 1 May (MFr) and 4 were reported without details from NPNWR 30 May (LKO).

Golden Eagle: Last to leave the CLNWR area was noted 23 May (LMa); few remain in the Sandhills this late.

American Kestrel: Best count was 25 in c NE 31 Mar (LR,RH), indicating peak migration for this species.

Merlin: Last in c and e NE were singles in Dixon Co 14 Apr (JJo) and in Kearney Co 13 Apr (LR,RH). One wintered in a Gering yard (AKe), and another was still at CLNWR 8 May (LMa).

Peregrine Falcon: Now expected statewide during spring migration, about 16 birds were reported. First was a single at DeSoto Bend NWR 15 Apr (RBa), and last singles at Funk Lagoon WPA (LMa) and Hansen Lagoon WPA (JGJ) on 19 May. As many as 3 were attending the State Capitol in Lincoln 10 May (John Dinan fide TEL).

Prairie Falcon: Rather late at some distance from the breeding range was 1 at CLNWR 21 May (MFr). No easterly reports were received.

Gray Partridge: Apparently severely reduced in numbers currently, none were reported. Reports of this species would be appreciated. See next species.

Ring-necked Pheasant: This species occurs statewide. Best counts were 113 in Dixon Co 11 May (JJo), suggesting a reason for decline of Gray Partridge in that area.

Greater Prairie-Chicken: A lek near Chambers had 19 birds 20 Apr (JJo), and a report was received from Valentine NWR 17 May (RDL); both sites are within the known NE range. Towards the e edge of the Sandhills range was 1 near Poole 8 May (LR,RH). An isolated population occurs 2 miles w of Holstein; birds were booming there 10 Mar (LR,RH).

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Reports were also from the known breeding range: 12 were at CLNWR 9 May (LMa) and at least 1 was in sw Cherry Co 24 May (SWi).

Wild Turkey: Best count for this statewide species was a modest 16 s of Gering 12 Mar (AKe).

Northern Bobwhite: Rather far to the west, although established in Scotts Bluff Co, were 3 there 25 May (LMa).

Virginia Rail: First was at CLNWR 22 Apr (MFr). Birds at Funk Lagoon WPA 17-19 May (BP,LP,NOU) may have been at a breeding location, as well as 1 at Arbor L WMA 11 May (LEi).

Sora: First was at CLNWR 27 Apr (MFr), while last at locations

where breeding apparently does not occur were at Arbor L WMA 14 May (LEi) and Crystal Cove L 19 May (BFH).

American Coot: Large numbers of migrants passed through CLNWR, peaking at 1600 on 23 Apr (LMA); numbers at NPNWR were lower, peaking at 531 on 1 May (LKO). In the NE best count was 1020 in Lancaster Co 12 Apr (LEi). Arrivals were in mid-Mar, with firsts 10 at NPNWR 4 Mar (LKO) and 2 at Branched Oak SRA 9 Mar (RBA). A few remain to summer in most wetlands.

Sandhill Crane: Best spring total reported was 22,000 at Fort Kearney SRA 30 Mar (LMA), towards the end of peak migration, and only a fraction of the 500,000 which are thought to migrate through the NE. Significant numbers migrate through the NE also; 528 were at NPNWR 19 Apr (LKO), and 117 were at CLNWR 10 Apr (MFR). This species has been recorded at Rowe Sanctuary every month of the year except Aug (Bill Dunn fide LR,RH).

Common Crane: A major find in the rarity department was a single bird found by migrant (vagrant?) Minnesota birders among Sandhill Cranes in extreme south Hall and Adams Cos 30-31 Mar (*JW,*BFH,LR,RH,mob). This is the 10th North American record (ABA Checklist 1990), 4 of which are from NE. Speaking from my experience of 2 days in early Apr looking through flocks of Sandhill Cranes with no success, I can see why more effort is not put into finding this species!

Whooping Crane: Reports were received of 7 birds; 1 was 12 miles W of Kearney 30 Mar (LMA), 2 immatures flew over observers near Harvard 6 May (DR,RR), 2 were at Funk Lagoon WPA 10 May (Gary Lingle fide TEL), and 2 others were along the Platte River in Kearney Co the same day (Gary Lingle fide TEL). Birds still in NE in May are probably immatures (prebreeders), some of which summer south of the breeding range.

Black-bellied Plover: This species was encountered in large numbers in the Rainwater Basin this spring, although it was reported statewide. On the weekend of 17-18 May a total of 226 were found: 68 at Theesen Lagoon WPA (JGJ) and 34 at Kissinger Basin WMA (JGJ) on 17 May and 59 at Harvard Marsh WPA (WRS), 34 at Jack Sinn WMA (WRS) and 31 at Ayr L (BP,LP) on 18 May. On 11 May 51 were at LM (JGJ). An additional 23 were reported, for a total of 300. First were 2 at both Funk Lagoon WPA (LR,RH) and CLNWR (MFR) on 28 Apr, and last singles at 2 locations in Cherry Co 24-25 May (SWI).

American Golden-Plover: Numbers were not large for this plover, only about 11 reported, including 3 furthest W, in Keith Co, 17 May (LMA). First was 1 at Oak Park L, Lincoln, on 22 Mar (NR), a record early date by 9 days, and last 1 at Funk Lagoon WPA 19 May (LMA). No flocks of any size were reported.

Semipalmated Plover: First were 15 at Funk Lagoon WPA 21 Apr (LR,RH), best count 38 there 27 Apr (JGJ), and last 2 at Massie Lagoon WPA 19 May (JGJ). A total of 79 were reported.

Piping Plover: About 16 were reported from Keith Co eastward, including a nest with eggs at Sandy Beach, LM, on 22 May (BP,LP); LM is a major nesting area with tireless help provided by employees of Central Nebraska Public Power and others in setting up and monitoring nesting exclosures to protect Piping Plovers and Least Terns from the hordes of recreationists at the lake. Elsewhere, first migrant was a single at Wehrspann L 22 Apr (JGJ) and best count 7 at Funk Lagoon WPA 5 May (LR,RH).

Killdeer: Best counts were 54 at CLNWR 23 Apr (LMA) and 30 in Dixon Co 14 Apr (JJo). First migrants appeared 4 Mar at Standing Bear L (NR) and 8 Mar, with 4 at NPNWR (LMA).

Black-necked Stilt: Up to 8 returned to the well-known nesting site in extreme south Sheridan Co at mile marker 106 on highway 2; 8 were there 22 Apr (LMA), the 2nd earliest date on record, and a possible

nesting pair was observed 22 May (BP,LP). Elsewhere, the only reports were of 1 at an unexpected location near Creighton 4 May (Mark Brogie fide NR) and 2 at CLNWR 28 May (MFr). This species appears to be maintaining its population in NE, the northeasternmost in the US; who knows how many there are, scattered throughout the Sandhills?

American Avocet: First to appear was 1 at NPNWR 3 Apr (LKO), and, in e NE, 1 at Wehrspann L 10 Apr (NR). Best counts were 202 at CLNWR 8 May (LMA) and 65 in se Sheridan Co 22 May (BP,LP), both breeding locations. Elsewhere, presumed migrants were 41 at Harvard Marsh WPA on 19 Apr (JGJ) and 23 at Arbor L WMA 8 May (LEi). Last away from breeding areas were 16 at Holmes L, Lincoln, on 10 May (LEi), but singles at Ayr L (BP,LP) and Funk Lagoon WPA (BP,LP) on 18 May were suggestive of breeding.

Greater Yellowlegs: First were 3 at a marsh east of Funk Lagoon WPA 23 Mar (LR,RH) and 2 the same day at Ceresco SL (JMO). Best counts were 41 at CLNWR 15 Apr (MFr) and 15 in Dixon Co 30 Apr (JJo). Last were 5 in Sarpy Co 11 May (NAMC).

Lesser Yellowlegs: First were 3 at Stagecoach L 27 Mar (LEi), followed by 1 at Offutt Base L 2 Apr (RBA) and 6 at NPNWR 3 Apr (LKO). Best counts were 71 at CLNWR on 22 Apr (MFr) and 55 in Sarpy Co, including 48 at Wehrspann L, on 11 May (NAMC). Last were 9 in the Rainwater Basin 18 May (WRS) and an albino at Funk Lagoon WPA 19 May (BP,LP).

Solitary Sandpiper: First were singles at FF (BP,LP) and at Mallard Haven WPA (JGJ) on 19 Apr. Best count for this solitary species was 4 on 11 May in Dixon Co (JJo). Last were at Valentine NWR 17 May (RDL) and 3 at CLNWR 13 May (MFr).

Willet: First were 4 at CLNWR 15 Apr (MFr) and 1 at Massie Lagoon WPA 20 Apr (JGJ). Best counts were 27 at Mallard Haven WPA 30 Apr (JGJ) and 14 in Douglas Co 11 May (JGJ). Last away from breeding areas were 12 at Hansen Lagoon WPA 19 May (JGJ).

Spotted Sandpiper: First was very early but not unprecedented at CLNWR 8 Mar (MFr); this the 2nd earliest ever, although details were not provided. Next was at Holmes L, Lincoln, on 27 Apr (LEi). Best count was 19 in Sarpy Co 11 May, 11 of these at Wehrspann L (NAMC). A few summer, but none were reported after 14 May, when 6 were at NPNWR (LKO).

Upland Sandpiper: First was at Gibbon 2 May (LR,RH), rather late for a first date, followed by 4 at CLNWR 3 May (MFr). Best count was 15 in the Chambers area 20 May (WRS).

Whimbrel: This was a very good year for this rare migrant for which there are fewer than 30 spring reports in all; a total of about 54 were reported, mainly in 2 large flocks. At CLNWR on 16 May, 23 loafing on a small island were described (MFr), and at Funk Lagoon WPA on 18 May 29 were found (NOU fide NR); no details were provided for the latter report, however. A single was in se Sheridan Co 6 May (DR,RR), and another was reported without details from Valentine NWR 17 May (RDL).

Long-billed Curlew: All reports were, as expected, from Keith and Cherry Cos westward. First were 2 at CLNWR on 1 Apr (MFr) and best counts was 33 there on 7 May (MFr). Somewhat late for an apparent migrant was 1 on Sandy Beach, LM, on 22 May (BP,LP). Furthest e on summer range were 2 in sw Cherry Co on 24 May (SWi).

Hudsonian Godwit: First were 2 at Jensen Lagoon WPA on 13 Apr (LR,RH) and 10 the next day at Funk Lagoon WPA (LR,RH). These dates tie the earliest and 2nd earliest reports. None were reported further w; there are only 7 such reports. Best counts were 30 at Funk Lagoon WPA 28 Apr (LR,RH) and 22 in w Sarpy Co 13 May (BP,LP). The latter, along with 5 near Elkhorn the same day (JGJ) were last to leave.

Marbled Godwit: First were 5 at Funk Lagoon WPA 14 Apr (LR,RH) and 2 the next day at CLNWR (MFr). Best count was 6 at Funk Lagoon WPA 27 Apr (JGJ). Last were 3 at Funk Lagoon WPA on 5 May (LR,RH).

Ruddy Turnstone: There are about 50 spring reports of this rare migrant, 49% in the narrow period 14-19 May. This year only 3 were found, as expected from 13-19 May! First was at Nathan's L 13 May (JGJ), another was at Harvard Marsh WPA 18 May (JGJ,BP,LP), and last was at Kirkpatrick WMA 19 May (JGJ).

Sanderling: Another shorebird in amazing numbers this spring, about 300 were reported, none e of York and Pierce Cos. First were 3 at Funk Lagoon WPA 14 Apr (LR,RH) and 20 at NPNWR 3 May (LKO). Best counts were 104 on 28 May at CLNWR (MFr), a record high count, 53 at LM 12 May (SJD), and 43 at CLNWR on 13 May (MFr). Last were 1 at Willow Creek SRA on 24 May (BP,LP) and 24 at Sandy Beach, LM, on 22 May (BP,LP).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: First was 1 at Cunningham L 15 Apr (RBa) and 33 at Harvard Marsh WPA 19 Apr (JGJ). Best counts were 175 at Harvard Marsh WPA 27 Apr (JGJ) and 150 at Mallard Haven WPA the same day (JGJ) and 60 in s Lancaster Co 10 May (LEi). Last were 3 in Holt Co 24 May (BP,LP).

Western Sandpiper: Much rarer in spring than in fall, and possibly over-reported in spring, 5 undocumented reports were received. Earliest were 12 e of Funk Lagoon WPA 23 Mar, a record early date. Best count was 25, also at Funk Lagoon WPA 14 Apr, and last were 2 at Facus Springs, Morrill Co, 17 May and 2 at Funk Lagoon WPA 19 May. Identification details should be provided with spring reports of this species.

Least Sandpiper: First were 6 at Funk Lagoon WPA 14 Apr (LR,RH). Best counts were 175 there on 27 Apr (JGJ), 53 in Lancaster Co 4 May (LEi), and 51 at CLNWR on 28 May (MFr). The latter were also latest.

White-rumped Sandpiper: A late spring migrant, probably not arriving until late April, this year's firsts were on schedule and accompanied by identification details: singles were at Wehrspann L 26-27 Apr (RBa,BP,LP) and at Mallard Haven WPA 27 Apr (JGJ), and 5 were at Harvard Marsh WPA 27 Apr (JGJ). Best counts were 250 at Funk Lagoon WPA 19 May (Lma) and 90 in Lancaster Co 10 May (LEi). Last was 1 at NPNWR 25 May (Lma).

Baird's Sandpiper: Record early even for this early migrant on 8 Mar was 1 well-described at an open water outlet from L Alice in Scotts Bluff Co (Lma). Not far behind were 3 at DeSoto Bend NWR 16 Mar (RBa). Best counts were at CLNWR, where 354 were noted 28 May (MFr), a rather late date for so many.

Pectoral Sandpiper: For the 2nd year in a row, this was a poor migration in terms of numbers. Of about 110 birds in all, 99 were in Sarpy Co 11 May, 84 of these at Wehrspann L (NAMC). Elsewhere, only 1 was reported from the Rainwater Basin, that at Sandpiper WPA on 18 May (WRS). This species is rare west of the Rainwater Basin. First was 1 at Oak Park L, Lincoln, 23 Mar (JMo), and last the Sarpy Co birds 11 May, as well as 5 the same day in Dixon Co (JJo).

Dunlin: A good year for this uncommon migrant, with numerous reports, but a total of only about 25 birds, in the narrow period 8-19 May. First was from w NE, only the 9th report from there, 1 at CLNWR on 8 May (Lma). All other reports were from Phelps Co eastward. Best counts were 4, in Sarpy Co both 12 May (RBa) and 15 May (JGJ). Last were 2 at Funk Lagoon WPA 19 May (BP,LP,Lma).

Stilt Sandpiper: This common statewide migrant appeared first at Funk Lagoon WPA, 2 birds on 14 Apr (LR,RH), 2nd earliest ever. Best counts were 302 at CLNWR 22 May (Lma), 250 at Ayr L on 17 May (JGJ), and 132 near LM on 12 May (SJD). Last were 120 still at CLNWR on 28 May (MFr).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: The only report was 6 in a sedge flat at Harvard Marsh WPA 18 May (WRS). There are only about 20 spring records, although "hundreds" migrate in a narrow band through York Co (Lee Morris). The 6 at Harvard Marsh WPA were closely observed and flushed several times, when their overall buffy appearance, yellow legs, pearly-white underwings, small heads and rather short, straight, black bills were noted.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Identification details were provided for most of the 6 reports received; these help in establishing the true status of this species. There are about 9 records with details, most in the period 11-16 May, but overall 19 Apr-16 May, mostly from c NE. This species usually does not mix with Long-billed Dowitchers in NE. First was an undocumented report from Lincoln 27 Apr (PK), best counts 8 in w Sarpy Co 13 May (RBa, BP, LP) and 4 at LM 11 May (JGJ), and last an undocumented single at Facus Springs 17 May (LMa). Best spring field mark appears to be the spotted (not barred) area in front of the bend-of-the-wing, and, if possible, calls to confirm.

Long-billed Dowitcher: First were 2nd-earliest ever 2 birds at Harvard Marsh WPA 21 Mar (RBa, BP, LP). Next were 6 in Lincoln 12 Apr (LEi). Best counts were 350 at CLNWR on 8 May (LMa), 225 at Harvard Marsh WPA 27 Apr (JGJ), and 150 at Funk Lagoon WPA 5 May (LR, RH). Last were a good count for the date of 146 still at CLNWR 28 May (MFr).

Common Snipe: First was at Stateline Marsh in the far w on 13 Mar (LMa); it may have wintered nearby. No concentrations were noted. Last away from known breeding areas were 1 at Arbor L WMA 4 May (LEi) and 3 at Funk Lagoon WPA 28 Apr (LR, RH). Presumed breeding birds were reported from Holt (BP, LP), Cherry (SWi), Scotts Bluff (AKE, LMa) and Dawes (BP, LP) Cos 20-25 May, but breeding data are few.

American Woodcock: The western outliers at Fort Kearney SRA returned 14 Mar (LR, RH), with 2 there 31 Mar (LMa). The only other report was of 2 at the north end of Cunningham L 5 Apr (NR). The w extent of the range in NE is not well known.

Wilson's Phalarope: First were 23 at CLNWR on 2 Apr (MFr), 3rd earliest ever, and 40 at Funk Lagoon WPA 14 Apr (LR, RH). Best count was a startling 10,000 at the North Platte SL 6 May (DR, RR). Elsewhere, best count was 646 at CLNWR 8 May (LMa). Last migrants were 20 at the Humphrey SL 20 May (NR), but 5 in Holt Co 24 May (BP, LP) may have been within the breeding range.

Red-necked Phalarope: The several reports involved about 125 birds and were all in the period 19-28 May and from Greeley Co westward. First were 38 at CLNWR 19 May (MFr), best count elsewhere 52 at Swan L, Greeley Co, on 20 May (JGJ, WRS), and last 4 at CLNWR on 28 May (MFr).

Franklin's Gull: First were singles at Branched Oak SRA 2 Mar (JGJ) and Cunningham L 12 Mar (JGJ). Best counts were 450 in Boone Co 11 May (WM) and 300 in Dixon Co 30 Apr (JJo). Last were 60 near Chambers on 29 May (BP, LP) and 5 at CLNWR 28 May (MFr).

Bonaparte's Gull: First were singles at Zorinsky L 10 Apr (JGJ) and Cunningham L 15 Apr (RBa). Best counts were 18 at CLNWR on 23 Apr (MFr) and 15 at LM 12 May (SJD). Last were 5 in Lincoln 18 May (LEi), and 1 at Clear Creek WMA 17 May (LMa).

Mew Gull: An adult was photographed at LM 11 May (*JGJ). This is the 2nd report, neither of which have yet been ruled on by the NOURC; the first was reported there 17 Feb in 2nd winter plumage.

Ring-billed Gull: Best counts were 5000 at Cunningham L on 21 Mar (NR), 930 at LM 1 Apr (LMa), and 626 at NPNWR 19 Mar (LKo). As late as 11 May there were 266 in Sarpy Co, 245 of these at Cedar Island (NAMC), and last were 4 in Lincoln 18 May (LEi).

California Gull: Unexpectedly far e were 1-2 adults at Cunningham L 27-28 Mar (*JGJ,*BP,LP). Apparently an increase in alewives is attracting larger gulls to this location, as is the case at LM (JGJ). Only 1 was found at LM 1 Apr, but 5 were there 17 May (LMa), and 8 were at CLNWR 1 Apr (MFr).

Herring Gull: Not especially numerous in NE, except at LM, few were reported. Best counts were 36 at Branched Oak SRA 16 Mar (LEi) and 22 at Harlan Co Res, all immatures, on 28 Apr (JGJ). Last were a 1st summer bird at LM 12 May (SJD) and another undescribed there 17 May (LMa).

Thayer's Gull: Two were reported, bringing the total number of reports to about 22, all since 1981. A 1st winter bird at Cunningham L 24 Mar had pale primaries but darker outer primary webs and was considered this species (*JGJ), and an adult was at Crystal Cove L on 26 Mar (BFH). Most reports are of 1st year birds.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Added to the Official State List in 1992, there are now 11 reports. This spring 2 were at Branched Oak SRA 5-23 Mar (*JGJ), and 1 was at Cunningham L 24 Mar (*JGJ). Most NE birds are adults, but the latter report was of a 1st year bird, an age class possibly overlooked in NE due to its similarity to many 1st year Herring Gulls.

Glaucous Gull: Following the great winter showing, only 2 were reported this spring. One was at Cunningham L 26 Mar (JGJ) and another at LM 1 Apr (LMa).

Great Black-backed Gull: The 5th record was an adult at Wagontrain L 3 Apr (*LEi); it had pink legs and a black mantle, and was much larger than associating Ring-billed Gulls.

Caspian Tern: About 22 were reported; this species is an uncommon migrant in NE. First was 1 at L Yankton on 4 May (JJo), best count 14 in Douglas Co 13 May (JGJ), and last 1 rather late in Adams Co 29 May (GJK). Rare in w NE, 1 was at LM 11 May (JGJ).

Common Tern: Observers should provide details with reports of this species, which is a rare migrant in NE. Three were reported, 1 at Gavin's Point Dam 4 May, another at CLNWR 8 May (MFr), and a third at Clear Creek WMA 12 May (SJD).

Forster's Tern: This tern appeared in good numbers, best counts 83 at Branched Oak SRA 27 Apr (JGJ), 65 at CLNWR on 28 May (MFr), where breeding occurs, and 18 at Gavin's Point Dam 4 May (JJo). First were 3 at Wagontrain L 10 Apr (LEi), apparently the 2nd earliest on record, and 2 at Crystal Cove L on 18 Apr (BFH), also rather early. Last away from the breeding range were at Rowe Sanctuary 30 May (LR,RH), rather late.

Least Tern: About 10 were reported, w to Grant Co, where 1 was at Doc L, near Whitman, 25 May (SWi). First were 5 in Sarpy Co 11 May, 3 at Cedar Island and 2 at Schramm Park SRA (NAMC); 1 was at the latter location 18 May (JMo). The others were in Dodge Co 16 May (EPa) and Hall Co in mid-May (NOU).

Black Tern: First were singles in Adams Co 8 May (GJK), at Wehrspann L 9 May (NR), and near Gibbon the same day (LR,RH). Best counts were 117 at Wehrspann L 11 May (NAMC), 98 at CLNWR 28 May (MFr), a breeding location, 63 near Blair 13 May (JGJ), and 60 at University L, Sioux Co, 22 May (HKH). Last away from the breeding range were 6 at Arbor L WMA 29 May (LEi) and 5 in Otoe Co the same day (LF,CF).

Rock Dove: Reported, but only in non-elaborative prose.

Mourning Dove: First migrant appeared in the se at Nebraska City 11 Mar (LF,CF), followed by 3 at UNL 16 Mar (LEi). In w NE first were at Scottsbluff 22 Mar (LMa) and at the James Ranch "high country" 6 Apr (SLe).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Only 3 were reported, first at Schramm Park SRA 18 May (WRS); all were in se NE.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: First was rather early at FF 9 May (RBa); about 10 were reported, all from Sarpy and Douglas Cos.

Common Barn Owl: One had returned to CLNWR 22 Apr, with 2 there the next day (LMa). No others were reported.

Eastern Screech-Owl: Reports were routine.

Great Horned Owl: A nest at James Ranch had eggs 25 Mar and young by 22 Apr (SLe), an adult with a fledgling was in Adams Co 8 May (GJK), and an adult was with a partly-feathered young bird in Lincoln 21 May (LEi).

Burrowing Owl: Reports from the e edge of the range included an apparent migrant at Massie Lagoon WPA 20 Apr which was not found later (JGJ), another at probably the easternmost Prairie Dog town in NE 3 miles s of Geneva 27 Apr (JGJ), and 1 at the Prairie Dog town 2.5 miles n of Funk 17-19 May (BP,LP,NOU).

Barred Owl: There are few reports w of Lancaster Co, where 1 was at Wilderness Park 10 May (LEi). The w limits of this species' range in NE seem to correspond with those of upland deciduous woodland.

Long-eared Owl: None were reported.

Short-eared Owl: Reports spanned the state, first at CLNWR on 1 Apr and again 15 Apr (MFr), 1 in Dixon Co 5 Apr (JJo), 1 at Funk Lagoon WPA 14 Apr (LR,RH), and 1 near Branched Oak SRA 20 Apr (JGJ). There were no other reports.

Common Nighthawk: First was at Schramm Park SRA 11 May (NAMC), followed by 2 at South Sioux City 16 May, considered "rather late" for an arrival date (BFH), and 1 at CLNWR 18 May (MFr). Usually e birds arrive about 2 weeks earlier than those in the w; cool weather and a scarcity of insects may have been responsible. They trickled in, as no double-digit counts were received.

Common Poorwill: None had arrived (reported) by the end of the period, whereas last year mid-May saw migrants in the w.

Chuck-will's-widow: This species arrived on time, first surprisingly early near Indian Cave SP 6 May (DR,RR), tying the 3rd earliest date. Don't these birds eat insects too? Others were s of Blair at a traditional site 16 May (JGJ) and at the northernmost traditional site, since 1988, at Willis 23 May (BFH).

Whip-poor-will: Reports were received only from Douglas Co s, including likely migrants at Two Rivers SP 13 May (JGu) and FF 11 May (NAMC), locations where summering does not occur probably due to overgrazing. First were 4 at Indian Cave SP 5 May (JGJ). Three were at Schramm Park SRA 30 May (JGu), where the species is common in summer.

Chimney Swift: First were 1 at Funk Lagoon WPA 21 Apr (LR,RH) and 10 at FF 23 Apr (RBa). Best count was 118 in Sarpy Co 11 May (NAMC). Arrival in w NE is far later, the first at Gering noted 13 May (AKe).

White-throated Swift: The only report was of 8 s of Gering 4 May; 6 were there 16 May (AKe).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: About 9 were reported, all in extreme se NE. First was 1 at Platte River SP 6 May (BP,LP), followed by 1 at bluebell flowers in the observers' yard 9 May (BP,LP). Best count was 3 at Schramm Park SRA 20 May (JGu).

Belted Kingfisher: Although wintering occurs where open water remains, spring arrivals appear in Apr; 3 were at Wolf L 5 Apr (THo), firsts were noted in c NE 2 Apr (LR,RH) and in Lancaster Co 20 Apr (LEi).

Lewis' Woodpecker: None were reported.

Red-headed Woodpecker: A few winter, but most do not. Firsts were at Arbor L WMA 1 May (LEi) and in Hall Co 11 May (LR,RH). Best count was 142 in Sarpy Co 11 May, 91 of which were at FF (NAMC). None were noted in Dixon Co until 4 were seen 29 May (JJo). In w NE, first at James Ranch showed up 14 May (SLe), also first for w

NE.

Acorn Woodpecker: Not a typo; this amazing record was a single bird coming to a feeder stocked with oranges and many Baltimore Orioles at Chambers 19-22 May (NR,JGJ,WRS,mob). The nearest populations are in New Mexico and California. Need I add that it represents the first NE record?

Red-bellied Woodpecker: None were reported w of Kearney Co (LR,RH).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Unusual as far w as c NE, and an uncommon migrant even in the Missouri valley, singles were at Fort Kearney SRA 1 Apr (LMA) and in Omaha 8 Apr (CEJ). There were no other reports.

Downy Woodpecker: In Sarpy Co on 11 May observers counted 67, compared to only 5 Hairy Woodpeckers. CBC data indicate a ratio of about 3:1 statewide; are Hairies far more secretive in the nesting season?

Hairy Woodpecker: See above.

Northern Flicker: "Red-shafted" birds were at Gibbon until 31 Mar (LR,RH). A good count of 45 "yellow-shafted" birds was made in Dixon Co 11 May (JJo).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: First was 1 at FF 11 May (NAMC) and last 1 at Wolf L 31 May (THo). None were further w than Saunders Co and Lancaster Co, where 1 was in Lincoln 17 May (LEi). There were no multiple sightings.

Western Wood-Pewee: Reports were from Scotts Bluff and Dawes Cos; first were 3 at NPNWR 5 May (LMA), 4th earliest ever. Two at Chadron SP 22 May (BP,LP) and 1-2 in Scotts Bluff Co 25 May (AKE,LMA) were probably on breeding territories also.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: Reports were from the Missouri valley except for singles at Lincoln 17 May (LEi), Pibel L SRA 24 May (BP,LP), and Wolf L 31 May (THo). First were 12 in Sarpy Co 11 May (NAMC), also the best count.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: The only report was without details of 1 at Cedar Island 11 May (NAMC); this is an early date relative to documented records from Kansas and Missouri.

Acadian Flycatcher: Only 1 squeezed into the spring period; it was at Schramm Park SRA 30 May (RBa,NR).

Alder Flycatcher: First was in Dixon Co 15 May (JJo), and migrants were still moving through at the end of the period, with singles reported at Schramm Park SRA 30 May (BP,LP,RBa).

Willow Flycatcher: First was at Harold W. Andersen WMA on 4 May (LR,RH), rather early, but this appears to be a good location (beside the Loup River) for this species, with about 25 there on 27 May (LR,RH). A westerly report was of 1 at CLNWR 8 May (LMA). This species occurs statewide in summer.

Least Flycatcher: First was 1 at Harold W. Andersen WMA 4 May (LR,RH), and, in w NE, 1 was at NPNWR 5 May (LMA). Best counts were 54 in Sarpy Co 11 May, 36 of these at FF (NAMC), 9 in Dixon Co 25 May (JJo) and 8 at Schramm Park SRA as late as 28 May (BP,LP). This is an early migrant for an empid, and breeding is possible in NE, especially in the n. Another was late at Arbor Day Farm 31 May (LF,CF). Usually 10-12 are banded in mid-May at Halsey, but this year only 1 (RCG).

Empidonax sp.: Congeners unidentified to species appeared 4 May in Scotts Bluff (AKE) and Lancaster (LEi) Cos. Best counts indicate just how many of these birds pass through, the magnitude missed when only birds identified to species are reported: an amazing 120 were in Sarpy Co 11 May, 81 of these at FF (NAMC), and 38 total empids at Schramm Park SRA as late as 28 May included only 10 identified to species (BP,LP).

Eastern Phoebe: First was 1 at Stagecoach L 16 Mar; it disappeared and no more were seen there through a cold period until 10 Apr

(LEi). Elsewhere, 1 was at FF 22 Mar (BP,LP) and another at Youngson Lagoon WPA 23 Mar (LR,RH). Best count was 4 at FF 8 Apr (NR).

Say's Phoebe: First were in w NE, 2 at CLNWR 9 Apr (MFr) and 1 s of Gering 12 Apr (AKe). All reports were from the panhandle except for 1 near Poole 8 May (LR,RH).

Great Crested Flycatcher: None were reported w of Adams Co, where it was seen 16 May (GJK). First was 1 at Rulo Bluffs Preserve 5 May (JGJ), Best count was 39 in Sarpy Co 11 May, 36 of these at FF (NAMC).

Cassin's Kingbird: The only reports were of 1 in Rocky Hollow, Morrill Co, 11 May (JGJ) and 2 in Banner Co 20 May (BP,LP), both within the breeding range.

Western Kingbird: First was near Gibbon 1 May (LR,RH), and in w NE 1 was s of Gering 4 May (AKe). First in e NE were singles in s Lancaster Co (LEi) and in Sarpy Co (NR) on 10 May.

Eastern Kingbird: First were in Lancaster Co 2 May (LEi), in c NE at Harold W. Andersen WMA 4 May (LR,RH), and in w NE in Scotts Bluff Co 12 May (AKe). Best count was 15 in Lancaster Co feeding on flotsam resulting from flooding (LEi).

Horned Lark: Reports were routine.

Purple Martin: One was far to the w at CLNWR on 7 May (LMa); this is only the 6th panhandle report away from Lewellen, where a small colony was established 1977-79 (Rosché, Birds of the Lake McConaughy Area ... 1994). A single bird in Boone Co 11 May (WM) was near the w edge of the usual summer range. Elsewhere, first was in South Sioux City 7 Apr (BFH), followed by 1 in Cass Co 8 Apr (KDG). Best count was 31 at Gretna on 11 May (NR).

Tree Swallow: Westerly reports, where the species is still establishing itself, were of 1-2 at CLNWR 5 and 22 May (MFr,LMa) and 3 at NPNWR 5 May (LMa). First were very early but not unprecedented at FF 26 Mar (RBa), followed by 11 at Wagontrain L 10 Apr (LEi). Best counts were 134 in Sarpy Co 11 May, 106 of these at Wehrspann L (NAMC), 75 at Wagontrain L 18 May (LEi), and 70 at Crystal Cove L 20 Apr (BFH).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: First were 2 at Wagontrain L 3 Apr (LEi) and 1 at Funk Lagoon WPA 10 Apr (LF,CF). Best counts were 317 in Dixon Co 11 May (JJo), 188 in Sarpy Co 11 May, an excellent count of 156 of these at FF (NAMC), and 70 at NPNWR 25 May (LMa).

Bank Swallow: First were in w NE, where 10 were at CLNWR 23 Apr (LMa), and at the other end of the state 1 was at FF 25 Apr (BP,LP,RBa). No concentrations were reported before the end of the period, although a nesting colony in a pasture bank in s Sioux Co contained 10 birds 25 May (HKH).

Cliff Swallow: First were 1 at FF 25 Apr (BP,LP,RBa), 1 on 2 May at Stagecoach L (LEi), and 70 at NPNWR 5 May (LMa,AKe). By 11 May 200-400 were nesting on the Missouri River bridge at Nebraska City (LC,CF), and 3500 were counted (?) between Scottsbluff and Kearney on 17 May (LMa).

Barn Swallow: First was 1 in Dixon Co 17 Apr (JJo), followed by 1 at Offutt Base L (RBa) and 2 in s Lancaster Co (LEi) the next day. Best counts were 254 in Dixon Co 11 May (JJo), about 100 in Lancaster Co 10 May (LEi), and 77 at CLNWR 1 May (LMa).

Blue Jay: An indication of spring migration were groups of 30 at Gibbon 17 May (LR,RH) and 20 at Arbor Day Farm 5 May (LF,CF). Many of the amazing 372 in Sarpy Co 11 May (NAMC) may have been migrants also; spring migration apparently peaks in late Apr and early May. A good count of 13 for so far w was made in Scotts Bluff Co 25 May (LMa).

Pinyon Jay: None were reported.

Black-billed Magpie: This species is a resident in the Gibbon area

(LR,RH) and nests as far e in ne NE as Cedar Co, where a pair was nesting near Willis 11 May (BFH). Fringe-of-range sightings were in s Lancaster Co 2 May (LEi) and in c Dixon Co 25 May and n Dixon Co 11 May, when 5 were seen (JJo).

American Crow: A flock of 300 at Funk Lagoon WPA (LR,RH) were apparently migrants, as may have been 30 at Holmes L, Lincoln, on 6 Mar (LEi).

Black-capped Chickadee: Reports were routine.

Tufted Titmouse: Reports were routine.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: None were reported in Mar. An active observer in Lancaster Co did not note any until 5 Apr (LEi); did NE wintering birds leave before birds from further s came through? Best counts were from breeding locations, with up to 8 at Wildcat Hills SRA 4 May (AKe,LMa) and 3 banded at Halsey 13-19 May (RCG). Elsewhere only a few were reported, latest 1 at CLNWR 20 May (MFr) and another rather late in Adams Co 31 May (GJK). The latter is the latest date except for summering birds; perhaps it too may attempt a nesting.

White-breasted Nuthatch: Although common on the Pine Ridge, few reports are received from the Wildcat Hills SRA; singles were noted there 10 Mar and 10 Apr (LMa). Is it numerous there?

Pygmy Nuthatch: My requests for breeding evidence for this species in the Wildcat Hills SRA were answered in surprising fashion. The new Nature Center was outfitted with a large snag outside its window for educational purposes which promptly became the site for the first recorded nesting, on 16 May, of this species in the Wildcat Hills SRA (LMa)! As many as 6 were in the general area 10 Mar (LMa) and 18 Apr (AKe).

Brown Creeper: Last departing birds were in Bellevue 14 Mar (KCR) and Wyuka Cemetery, Lincoln, on 15 Mar (LEi). At the only regular summering location in recent years, 1 was singing at FF 5 May (BP,LP).

Rock Wren: There were 2 reports in e NE this spring. Apparently the 2nd for Lancaster Co was in the observers' yard 28-30 Apr; the first was another in the same yard last year (PK,KK). Sarpy Co's 4th record was 1 in the Gifford Farm parking lot at FF 10 May (RBa). These 6 records are the furthest e for the state.

Carolina Wren: Numbers seem to be declining; only 4 were found 11 May in Sarpy Co (NAMC). The only other reports were of singles at Arbor Day Farm 1 and 24 Mar (LF,CF), 1 at Schramm Park SRA 12 May (NR), and 1 at the w edge of the current range in Lincoln 10 May (LEi).

House Wren: First were in se NE, 1 in the observers' yard in Omaha 20 Mar (RBa), and 2 at Nebraska City 21 Apr (LF,CF). First in w NE was at Scottsbluff 4 May (LMa). Best count was 224 in Sarpy Co 11 May, 167 of which were at FF (NAMC); many of these were probably migrants.

Winter Wren: The only reports were from FF, where one found 11 Mar in the same place one was found on the CBC there may have wintered (RBa); the other was seen 13 Apr (RBa), about the time of peak migration.

Sedge Wren: First were near Gibbon 5 May (LR,RH), also the most westerly reported, followed by 1 at Wagontrain L 10 May (LEi). Best count was 6 at Arbor L WMA 11 May (JMo). Birds remaining in late May may be breeding; 2 were at Arbor Day Farm 28-29 May (LF,CF).

Marsh Wren: First to arrive were in the w; at least 1 was at CLNWR 22 Apr (LMa,MFr), with 13 there by 8 May (LMa). Two at Jack Sinn WMA 26 Apr, first to arrive in e NE, appeared to be near a nest site (RBa). None were noted in e NE after 1 at FF 15 May (BP,LP), but singles were in Clay and Phelps Cos until 18 May (BP,LP). Dates after these may be of breeding birds.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Last in e NE was 1 at Arbor Day Farm 5 Apr (LF,CF), but at Stateline Marsh WMA in w NE 1 was seen 15 May (LMA), the latest date for spring migrants; there are few later dates of stragglers, however.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: One was rather early at Fort Kearney SRA 31 Mar (LMA), followed by 1 at FF 2 Apr (BP,LP). First in w NE was at CLNWR 23 Apr (LMA). Best counts were 10 in Sarpy Co 11 May (NAMC), 6 at Wyuka Cemetery, Lincoln, 4 May (LEi), and 6 at Schramm Park SRA 13 May (BP,LP). Last were at Schramm Park SRA 20 May (JGu) and Fort Kearney SRA 18 May (LMA).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Most reports, as expected, were from Douglas Co s in the Missouri valley, but out of range was a male at Harold W. Andersen WMA 4 May (LR,RH). Also westerly (although there may be a breeding population in the Republican valley w to Harlan Co; see the Summer report) were a large group of 9 at Little Blue WMA 20 Apr (JGJ), also first for spring. In Lincoln 2 were seen at Wilderness Park 3 and 9 May (LEi). First in the se were 2 at FF 23 Apr (BP,LP) and best count 12 in Sarpy Co 11 May (NAMC).

Eastern Bluebird: Migrants appeared in Mar, first 3 at Wolf L on 2 Mar (THo). Westerly reports were from the panhandle, where it is increasing its numbers; 2 were in Garden Co 23 Apr (LMA), 4 were at Wildcat Hills 4 May (AKe), and 1 was at James Ranch 6 May (SLe).

Mountain Bluebird: Migrants return to the n panhandle breeding range by late Feb; 20 were s of Gering 16 Mar (AKe). At the easternmost regular wintering location, the cedar canyons in se Lincoln Co, 100 were noted 6 Mar (WWy). One at CLNWR 27 May (MFr), where it is a regular migrant, is the latest ever away from the breeding range.

Townsend's Solitaire: Wintering birds were numerous at Halsey, a lingerer rather late on 13 May (RCG). Elsewhere last to leave were at Wildcat Hills SRA 10 Apr (LMA) and Gering Cemetery 26 Mar (AKe). Singles at Sacramento-Wilcox WMA 16 Mar (BP,LP) and 21 Mar (RBa) were somewhat easterly.

Veery: Reports were from the Missouri valley except for one without details in Adams Co 25 May (GJK); this species is rare away from the Missouri valley. First was 1 at FF 11 May (NAMC), and last 1 at Arbor Day Farm 29 May (LF,CF). Three others were reported from Dakota (BFH) and Douglas (CEJ) Cos.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Last year was considered a good year with 24 reported, but this year an amazing 55 were found in Sarpy Co alone on 11 May, including 20 at FF and 15 at Cedar Island (NAMC). In addition about 21 others were detected, with all sightings but one within the period 2-13 May, and including a westerly bird banded at Halsey 13 May (RCG). Last by 10 days was 1 at Lincoln 23 May (LEi). First was 1 in Omaha 2 May (CEJ).

Swainson's Thrush: There was an incredible fallout of this species in e NE 10-11 May to go along with the tremendous numbers of Gray-cheeked Thrushes. No fewer than 499 were counted in Sarpy Co 11 May, 272 of these at FF (NAMC); 36 were in Lancaster Co 10 May (LEi), 30 in Dixon Co 11 May (JJo), 20 at Schramm Park SRA 13 May (BP,LP), and, as far w as CLNWR, 12 were counted 21 May (LMA). First were rather early in Omaha 20 Apr (CEJ) and at FF 29 Apr (RBa), and last were at Schramm Park SRA 30 May (BP,LP) and at Arbor Day Farm 29 May (LF,CF). First in w NE was at NPNWR 5 May (LMA), and last at Gering Cemetery 25 May (AKe).

Hermit Thrush: Few have been reported in recent years, with a total of only 10 this spring. First was at Arbor Day Farm 7 Apr (LF,CF), and last were 2 in Sarpy Co 22 Apr (RBa), except for 1 at Arbor L WMA 4 May (LEi), a rather late date for this early migrant. Best count was 3 at Indian Cave SP 12 Apr (BP,LP,RBa).

Wood Thrush: No reports were received w of Lancaster Co, where it

is only a rare migrant; sightings were at Wilderness Park 9 and 17 May (LEi). It is also unusual in Dodge Co, where 1 was at Hormel park in Fremont 16 May (EPa). All other reports were from the Missoouri valley from Washington Co s. First were singles at Schramm park SRA 6 May (RBa,BP,LP) and Platte River SP 8 May (JMo). Best count was 8 in Sarpy Co 11 May, 7 of these at FF (NAMC). One was on a nest at Two Rivers SP 24 May (JGu).

American Robin: Migrants pass through e NE in early Mar; best counts were 500 at Wolf L 16 Mar (THo), 200 in Lancaster Co the same day (LEi), and 160 at Arbor Day Farm 9 Mar (LF,CF). In w NE, 100 were s of Gering 21 Apr (AKe).

Gray Catbird: First in e NE was a single at FF 4 May (BP,LP), followed by 4 in Hall Co 11 May (LR,RH) and 1 in Adams Co the same day (GJK), and, in w NE, 1 at Gering Cemetery 19 May (AKe). Best count was 12 presumed migrants in Lancaster Co 10 May feeding on high water debris (LEi). These arrival dates are rather late, and in Dixon Co the first was not seen until 25 May (JJo).

Northern Mockingbird: First was in Lancaster Co 18 Apr (LEi). Good numbers were reported statewide, a total of about 20. Most are summer residents, arriving in Apr and drifting southward in fall, occasionally attempting to overwinter.

Sage Thrasher: Only a casual migrant in spring, restricted to the panhandle, only the 7th such report was of 1 in s Sioux Co 16 May (HKH). The observer stated that it is seen each year "coming or going," adding that another was seen 11 Aug 1995 there. It is far more numerous in fall.

Brown Thrasher: The first arrivals appear in e NE and probably wintered in or close to NE; these birds appear in Mar, while most arrive in Apr. First this spring was 1 in Dixon Co 13 Mar (JJo), the earliest spring arrival ever. Next were "normal migrants," first singles at Arbor Day Farm 11 Apr (LF,CF) and Indian Cave SP 12 Apr (BP,LP,RBa). First in c NE were 3 at Funk Lagoon WPA 28 Apr (LR,RH) and in w NE singles were at Gering Cemetery 4 May (AKe) and at CLNWR the same day (MFr); 12 were at CLNWR 25 May (MFr). Best count was 20 in Lancaster Co 10 May (LEi); it would seem that these may have been somewhat late migrants.

American Pipit: Migrants dribble through from Mar-May, this year's first 1 rather early at DeSoto Bend NWR 16 Mar (RBa), and last 6-7 in corn stubble at Cedar Island 11 May (RCG), also the best count. None were reported w of Dixon Co, where 4 were found 14 Apr (JJo).

Cedar Waxwing: Best counts were better than the winter highs, suggesting movement of migrants, with 85 at Arbor Day Farm 3 Mar (LF,CF), 70 in Antelope Co 4 May (JJo), and 64 at Wolf L 13 Apr (THo). A few summer, the 3-6 at NPNWR 25 May (AKe,LMa) possibly in this category.

Northern Shrike: Of only 4 birds reported, the only 1 e of the panhandle was at Rowe Sanctuary 2 Mar (LR,RH). Last to leave was 1 at CLNWR 11 Apr (MFr).

Loggerhead Shrike: First were singles in Lancaster Co 16 Mar (LEi), Cass Co 30 Mar (KDG), and in Kearney Co 31 Mar (LR,RH). In w NE, first was at CLNWR 11 Apr (MFr), and another was s of Gering 24 Apr (AKe).

European Starling: Best count was of a flock of 2000 presumed migrants at Wolf L 10 Mar (THo).

White-eyed Vireo: Reports have been scarce in recent years, with only 6 spring reports since 1983. The 7th was one which popped up from some bushes on the UNL campus when the observer was looking at some White-throated Sparrows 10 May (JMo). In NE this is a casual spring overshoot species.

Bell's Vireo: Occurring statewide, but nowadays much more common in c and w NE than in the e, first were 3 in w NE at CLNWR 6 May

(MFr), followed by 1 at Mormon Island SRA 11 May (NR). Only 2 were reported from e NE: singles at Willis 18 May (BFH) and 1 in Burt Co 29 May (RBa).

Solitary Vireo: Migrants, rare w about Grand Island, appeared first at FF rather early on 29 Apr (RBa), followed by 1 at Schramm Park SRA 8 May (JMo). Best count was 23 in Sarpy Co 11 May (NAMC); only 1-2 were reported by single observers. Last was at Schramm Park SRA 28 May (BP,LP), and furthest w 1 in Lincoln 17 May (LEi). The w race plumbeus, which breeds in the Pine Ridge, was noted in East Hat Canyon, where a pair was nest building 21 May (BP,LP).

Yellow-throated Vireo: None were reported w of Dodge Co, where singles were at Dead Timber SRA 18 May (JJo) and Hormel Park 23 May (JGu). First were singles at FF 4 May (BP,LP) and Schramm Park SRA 6 May (RBa). Best count was 7 on 11 May, 5 of these at FF (NAMC). It occurs throughout the Missouri valley; 2 males were at Willis 18 May (BFH).

Warbling Vireo: First was a record early bird (by 2 days) in the observers' Sarpy Co yard 14 Apr (BP,LP). Next was in Lincoln 2 May (LEi). In w NE first was at L Minatare 25 May (AKE). Best counts were 30 in Douglas Co 25 May (WRS) and 15 at Wilderness Park, Lincoln, 17 May (LEi).

Philadelphia Vireo: Only 4-5 were reported, including 1-2 as far w as Adams Co, seen 16 and 18 May (GJK), and Halsey, seen in mid-May (RCG). This species is rare w of the Missouri valley. Others were at Arbor Day Farm 11 May (LF,CF) and at FF 16 May (BP,LP,RBa).

Red-eyed Vireo: Arriving a little late this spring, none were reported from w NE before period's end. First were singles at FF 9 May (RBa) and a banded bird at Schramm Park SRA 10 May (Lynn Bradman fide JMo). Best count was only 7, at Arbor Day Farm 23 May (LF,CF). Furthest w was 1 near Poole 18 May (LMa).

Blue-winged Warbler: Only 2 sightings of this casual migrant were reported, after last year's record 6; one was at the Krimlofski Tract, Neale Woods, on 4 May (JGJ), the other at Dodge Park, Omaha, 15 May (JGJ).

Golden-winged Warbler: Again good numbers of this uncommon migrant were reported, a total of about 8 birds, all from the lower Missouri valley except for 1 at Hormel Park, Fremont, 16 May (JGu,EPa). First were 2 on 11 May, 1 at Wehrspann L the other at FF (NAMC), and last 1 at Neale Woods also on 16 May (JGJ).

Tennessee Warbler: This species was also somewhat late in arriving this year. None were reported w of Buffalo Co, where 1 was near Poole 18 May (LMa). First were 1 in Omaha 9 May (NR) and 2 the same day at Wilderness Park (LEi). Best counts were 12 at Wilderness Park 23 May (LEi) and 10 at FF 25 May (WRS). Last were 4 at Schramm Park SRA 30 May (BP,LP,NR).

Orange-crowned Warbler: This statewide migrant was first noted far to the w at CLNWR 23 Apr (LMa) and at Two Rivers SP in the e (JGJ) on 23 Apr. Best counts were 24 in Sarpy Co 11 May (NAMC), 11 at Schramm Park SRA 13 May (BP,LP), and 9 in Lancaster Co 10 May (LEi). Last were 1 at Arbor Day Farm 19 May (LF,CF) and 2 at FF 17 May (BP,LP).

Nashville Warbler: This easterly migrant was reported w to Kearney Co, where 1 was at Fort Kearney SRA 18 May (LMa), and Adams Co, where 1 was noted 16 May (GJK). First was 1 at FF 2 May (BP,LP). Best count was 9 at Wilderness Park 17 May (LEi); only 1-2 were reported elsewhere, for a rather low total of about 25-30. Last was 2nd latest ever on 30 May; it was at FF (NR).

Northern Parula: All reports were from Douglas and Sarpy Cos, about 20 in all. First for this early arriver was 1 at FF 20 Apr, joined by 3 more by 22 Apr (RBa). Best count was 11 in Sarpy Co 11 May, 10, an excellent total, at FF (NAMC). Furthest "w" were 1-2 at Two

Rivers SP 15 and 22 May (JGu).

Yellow Warbler: Another statewide wood-warbler, firsts were in w NE in Scotts Bluff Co 4 May (AKe) and at FF the same day (BP,LP). Best counts were 26 at Wilderness Park 17 May (LEi) and 16 at Clear Creek WMA the same day (LMA).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: One of fewer than 10 panhandle reports was a male in Sowbelly Canyon 21 May (BP,LP). Otherwise, furthest w was 1 in Adams Co 18 May (GJK). First were about 8 birds at various locations in Sarpy (RBa,BP,LP), Douglas (NR), and Washington (JGJ) Cos on 16 May. Best count was 3, at FF (RBa) and at Neale Woods (JGJ) on 16 May. Last were singles at FF and Schramm Park SRA 28 May (BP,LP).

Magnolia Warbler: All reports were from the Missouri valley except for a male at Goose L, Holt Co, 20 May (JGJ,WRS); it is uncommon in c NE. First were 2 at Arbor Day Farm 9 May (LF,CF). Best count was 5 at Dodge Park 15 May (JGJ). Last were singles at Arbor Day Farm (LF,CF) and Schramm Park SRA (BP,LP) and 28 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: The only report of this casual migrant, rarer in spring than in fall, was of 1 which perched on the observers' banding net stringer in mid-May at Halsey (RCG). There are only about 20 spring reports in all for NE.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: The "myrtle" form is a statewide migrant; unless stated, reports are of this form. First in e NE was 1 at FF 7 Apr (RBa), and in w NE 15 were at the Gering Cem 4 May (AKe). Best counts were 755 in Sarpy Co on 11 May, 537 of these at FF (NAMC), and 255 in Lancaster Co 10 May (LEi). Last in e NE was at Schramm Park SRA 21 May (JGu) and elsewhere 2 were at Goose L, Holt Co, 20 May (JGJ,WRS) and 3 at CLNWR 17 May (MFr). The "audubon's" form appeared first at James Ranch 22 Apr, remaining until 5 May (SLe).

Townsend's Warbler: A male at Schramm Park SRA 11 May (SG,SK) was well-described. There are only 8 other spring reports for NE, most, surprisingly, from C NE, but most also undocumented. It has occurred in Iowa, however (Dinsmore et al, Iowa Birds 1984).

Black-throated Green Warbler: All reports were from Lancaster Co e; 1 was at Wilderness Park, Lincoln, 10 May (LEi). First were 4 in Sarpy Co 11 May (NAMC), also best count, and last was 1 at Neale Woods 20 May (JGJ). A total of about 20 was reported.

Blackburnian Warbler: None were reported w of Dixon and Lancaster Cos; 1-2 were in Dixon Co 26 and 28 May (JJo) and 1 was at Wilderness Park 9 May (LEi), also the first for the spring period. Best count was of 6 singing at FF 17 May (BP,LP). Last of about 27 was in Omaha 29 May (NR).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Of interest was a report from a new Missouri valley location, the Krimlofski Tract, Neale Woods, where 1 was present 4-6 May (JGJ). Reports are usually restricted to the only known breeding location, FF, where 2 arrived 20 Apr (RBa) and best count was 3 on 5 May (BP,LP).

Prairie Warbler: The first report since 1991, and NE's 13th in all, was a singing male at FF present for about an hour 14 May (RBa,BP,LP).

Palm Warbler: Reports were w to Hall Co and all within the narrow period 4-11 May. First were 1-2 at FF (RBa,BP,LP) and 1 at Stagecoach L (LEi) on 4 May. Best count was 26 in Sarpy Co 11 May, 10 of these at Wehrspann L (NAMC), also last, with 1 in Hall Co the same day (LR,RH). This species is found in brushy habitats rather than in forest, as indicated by the count at Wehrspann L.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Although only a casual migrant in spring, a surprising 3 were reported. One was at FF 16 May (RBa), a male was in the observers' yard the same day (BP,LP), and another was at Wyuka Cemetery, Lincoln, 21 May (LEi). These are only the 7th and

8th spring reports since 1981, although it is fairly common in fall.

Blackpoll Warbler: Another of the few statewide spring migrants, first in e NE was at FF 4 May (BP,LP,RBa), and in w NE 1 was in d Sioux Co 12 May (HKH). Best counts were 14 in Sarpy Co 11 May (NAMC) and 8 at FF 17 May (BP,LP). Last in e NE were 2 at Schramm Park SRA 28 May (BP,LP) and in n and w NE singles were at NPNWR 25 May (AKe,LMa) and Pibel L SRA 29 May (BP,LP).

Cerulean Warbler: Arriving 2-3 weeks late this year, only 1-2 were noted at FF before the end of the period, first 1 there 25 May (WRS).

Black-and-white Warbler: Another statewide species, first were in e NE 27 Apr at Wilderness Park (PK) and at FF 29 Apr (RBa), and in w NE 1 was at CLNWR 8 May (LMa). Best counts were an amazing 110 in Sarpy Co 11 May, 58 of these at FF (NAMC), and 16 in Lancaster Co 10 May (LEi). Last in e NE, where there have been no summer reports since 1988, were singles at Schramm Park SRA 30 May (NR) and in Dixon Co 26 May (JJo). At known current breeding locations, 1 was gathering nesting materials at Gilbert-Baker WMA 21 May (BP,LP) and another was singing at the Niobrara Valley Preserve 25 May (SWi). **American Redstart:** Reports were from the Missouri valley, except for 1 in Scotts Bluff Co 20 May (AKe), where it is a regular migrant in small numbers, 1 in Adams Co 11 May (GJK), and 1 singing at the Niobrara Valley Preserve 25 May (SWi), a breeding location. Of interest was 1 at Harold W. Andersen WMA as late as 27 May (LR,RH); breeding evidence from the Loup drainage in recent years is lacking. First were 2 at FF 5 May (RBa,BP,LP). None were reported in the Missouri valley after 2 at Arbor Day Farm 15 May (LF,CF).

Prothonotary Warbler: Reports were all from FF, where it breeds. First was there 10 May (RBa), but no more than 3 were reported at any one time, when 2 males and a female were carrying nesting materials 19 May (SWi).

Worm-eating Warbler: Four, an excellent total, were reported for the 2nd straight year, n and w to Dodge Co, where 1 was at Hormel Park 9 May (JGu). First was at FF 28 Apr (fide NR), rather early, 1 was at Schramm Park SRA 10-11 May (JGu), and 1 was at Dodge Park 17 May (JGJ).

Ovenbird: First were 3 in Richardson Co 5 May (WRS). In w NE, first was 1 at CLNWR 19 May (MFr). Best count was 58 in Sarpy Co 11 May, 44 of these at FF (NAMC).

Northern Waterthrush: None were reported w of Boone Co, where 6 were counted 11 May (WM) and Adams Co, where 1 appeared 5 May (GJK). First were 2 at FF 25 Apr (RBa,BP,LP). Best count was 28 in Sarpy Co 11 May, 21 of these at FF (NAMC). Last was 1 at Neale Woods 27 May (JGJ), the 2nd latest ever for this early migrant.

Louisiana Waterthrush: This species appeared in good numbers this spring, after a few recent years of scarcity. About 12 were reported at traditional locations, except for 1 in a small patch of riparian brush in Nemaha Co 5 May (WRS). At FF 2 arrived 11 Apr (BP,LP), with 3 counted there 11 May (NAMC), but none were reported after 17 May (BP,LP). At Platte River SP up to 3 were present, those on 15 and 27 May (JGJ). Three were at Indian Cave SP 6 May (JGJ). A single male was singing loudly at Hummel Park, Washington Co, 8 and 12 May (NR,WRS). A single was at Schramm Park SRA 11 May (NAMC).

Kentucky Warbler: About 8 were found, all in the lower Missouri valley. First were 4 at Indian Cave SP (JGJ) and 1 at Platte River SP (RBa,BP,LP) on 6 May. Two were at Hummel Park 8-12 May (NR,WRS), and 1 was at Schramm Park SRA 21 and 28 May (JGu).

Connecticut Warbler: A good total of 4 were found; this is but a

casual migrant in NE. One was at FF 20 May (JGu), another was at Dodge Park 27 May (JGJ,WRS), and 1-2 were singing at Schramm Park SRA 28-30 May (BP,LP,NR,RBa).

Mourning Warbler: Becoming more numerous in recent years, about 38 of this late migrant were reported, w to Adams Co, where 1 was noted 16 May (GJK). First were singles in Omaha (RBa) and at Dodge Park (JGJ) on 15 May. Best counts were 10 in Douglas Co 15 May (WRS,JGJ) and 5 at Schramm Park SRA 28 May (BP,LP). Last were singles at Arbor Day Farm (LF,CF) and Schramm Park SRA (NR,BP,LP) on 30 May.

MacGillivray's Warbler: Rare but regular as a panhandle migrant, 2 were reported: 1 was in Sowbelly Canyon 12 May (JGJ) and another was in s Sioux Co 12-14 May (HKH).

Common Yellowthroat: First was 1 at Arbor Day Farm 3 May (LF,CF), followed closely by the first in w NE at NPNWR 4 May (AKe). Best count was 119 in Sarpy Co 11 May, 78 of these at FF (NAMC).

Wilson's Warbler: Usually a statewide migrant, few were reported in total, only about 12, and none w of Adams Co, where 1 was seen 16 May (GJK). First was at FF 6 May (NR) and last another there 27 May (WRS).

Canada Warbler: About 9 of this rare spring migrant were reported, all in the lower Missouri valley from Washington Co s. First was at DeSoto Bend NWR 16 May (JGJ), and last at Schramm Park SRA 28 May (JGJ).

Yellow-breasted Chat: None were reported e of Kearney Co, where even there the species is scarce; it is now only common in w NE, e to Cherry Co, where 1 was at Valentine NWR 19 May (RDL). In Kearney Co 1 was at Fort Kearney SRA 17 May (LMa). A good count of 9 in Sowbelly Canyon was made 21 May (BP,LP).

Summer Tanager: Few were reported, all at Schramm Park SRA, if not the only, certainly the best-known location for this species. First there were 3 on 18 May (WRS). This species is at the extreme edge of its range in se NE.

Scarlet Tanager: All reports were from the Missouri valley, n to Dakota Co, where a male was at Willis 18 May (BFH). First were 3 counted in Sarpy Co 11 May (NAMC). Best count was 5 at Schramm Park SRA 30 May; a female was on a nest there 28 May (BP,LP).

Western Tanager: All reports were from the panhandle, as expected. First were singles at Gering Cemetery (AKe) and CLNWR (MFr) on 20 May. One was at NPNWR 25 May (LMa), and first to appear at James Ranch was seen 31 May (SLe).

Northern Cardinal: Latest from the Scotts Bluff Co outpost was a count of 4 on 1 Mar (AKe).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: This species is a casual spring migrant in the panhandle, and so 2 reports were surprising: 1 was s of Gering on 4 May (AKe) and no fewer than 3 were at a James Ranch feeder 12 May (SLe). Elsewhere, first was 1 at Wagontrain L 2 May (LEi) and best count 61 in Sarpy Co 11 May, 38 of these at FF (NAMC). A male was banded at Halsey 13 May (RCG), near the w edge of the breeding range.

Black-headed Grosbeak: At Halsey, where both Rose-breasted and this species occur in summer, 2 Black-headed Grosbeaks were banded 13-19 May (RCG). At the e edge of the summer range, 1 was at Harold W. Andersen WMA 27 May (LR,RH), 1 was near Poole on 18 May (LMa), and a pair was near Gibbon 12 May (LR,RH). First was 1 at James Ranch 12 May (SLe).

Blue Grosbeak: The only report from e NE was of 1 in Dixon Co 29 May (JJo). Another was at Valentine NWR 19 May (RDL). First were 2 s of Gering 16 May (AKe).

Lazuli Bunting: Spring migrants may occur far e of the summer range, although 3 such reports were unexpected. Singles were at

Funk Lagoon WPA 19 May (BP,LP), 2 males were banded at Halsey mid-May (RCG), and 1 was at Fort Kearney SRA 17 May (LMa). Migrants arrived s of Gering 8 May (AKe), and best count was 9 there on 20 May (AKe).

Indigo Bunting: This species is about as common in w NE as is Lazuli Bunting, but it was a surprise that the first for spring was at James Ranch 6 May; it was accompanied by an obvious hybrid with blue head, white breast and no orange (SLe). In e NE, first were singles at Wehrspann L (NR) and FF (RBa) on 10 May. Best count was 7 at Arbor Day Farm 19 May (LF,CF).

Painted Bunting: There were 9 reports for NE until this spring; now there are 11. A real surprise was the presence of a male and 2 females photographed just e of the Belmont Diversion Dam in Morrill Co 1 May (MBH). A female was discovered by Eric Volden amongst American Goldfinches at the feeders of the Crane Meadows Nature Center in Hall Co, photographed, and seen by several observers 30-31 May.

Dickcissel: The "dozens flying over" Sarpy Co 9 May (JMo) were nipped for first by 2 in Sarpy Co 9 May (RBa) and especially by one too early for its own good which appeared at a Nebraska City feeder 24 Apr (LF,CF). None were reported w of Buffalo Co, where the first was seen 9 May (LR,RH).

Green-tailed Towhee: The only report of this casual panhandle migrant was of 1 which obligingly perched for a photograph in a shrub at the parking lot of Jailhouse and Courthouse Rocks, Morrill Co (JGJ).

Eastern Towhee: Although NE is in the area where Eastern and Spotted Towhees' ranges meet, apparently pure individuals occur within the hybrid zone; it is this limited hybridization which allowed their reversion to separate species (DeBenedictis, Birding 28:228, 1996). Eastern Towhees were reported in the Republican valley w to Harlan Co Res 27 Apr (JGJ); this species apparently occurs in small numbers as far w as Colorado (Andrews and Righter, Colorado Birds 1992). Elsewhere, reports were limited to the area bounded to the north by Lancaster and Sarpy Cos. First were noted at Branched Oak SRA 12 Apr (LEi) and at FF, where 2 were seen 13 Apr (RBa). Another was at Platte River SP 8 May (JMo). Reports of summering birds are of interest in determining the summer range of this species; also of importance is whether hybrid types are present in the same areas as apparently pure types.

Spotted Towhee: Most of NE is occupied by this species in summer. Furthest se reports were of 1 at FF 11 May (no details of plumage were provided, NAMC), 1 at Bellevue 11 Apr (KCR), and 1 at Wilderness Park, Lincoln, 27 Apr (PK). First were 5 at Little Blue WMA 20 Apr (JGJ), and, in w NE, 2 were at Gering Cemetery 4 May (AKe). Best count was 12 at NPNWR 5 May (LMa). The same information as for Eastern Towhee is requested for this species.

American Tree Sparrow: Best counts were 60 in Dixon Co 10 Mar (JJo) and 50 at Stagecoach L 16 Mar (LEi). Last were singles at NPNWR (LMa) and in Dixon Co (JJo) on 18 Apr, although 3 were reported without details in Sarpy Co 11 May (NAMC), a rather late date.

Chipping Sparrow: First was rather early at Wakefield 1 Apr (JJo), followed by 1 at Arbor Day Farm 11 Apr (LF,CF), 1 in Bellevue (KCR), and 6 at Offutt Base L the same day (RBa). In w NE, first was 1 at CLNWR 13 Apr (MFr). Best counts were 508 in Sarpy Co 11 May (NAMC) and 305 in Lancaster Co 10 May (LEi).

Clay-colored Sparrow: First was 1 at CLNWR 23 Apr (MFr), followed by singles in Buffalo Co 24 Apr (LR,RH) and in Lancaster Co 26 Apr (LEi). Best counts were "hundreds" heard in Buffalo Co 9 May (LR,RH) and 100 in Sarpy Co 11 May (NAMC). Last were in e NE 16 May at Omaha (NR) and in Cherry Co (RDL) and Clear Creek Marsh WMA

(LMa) 17 May.

Brewer's Sparrow: The only reports of this panhandle summer resident were of 1 at Scottsbluff 11-12 May (LMa) and 2 singing in Banner Co 20 May (BP,LP).

Field Sparrow: Rare in the panhandle, 1 was at NPNWR 5 May (LMa). Elsewhere, furthest w was 1 in Adams Co 5 May (GJK). First were singles at Arbor Day Farm 24 Mar (LF,CF) and at Wolf L 31 Mar (THo). Best count was an excellent 39 in Dixon Co 11 May (JJo).

Vesper Sparrow: First was in e NE at Cunningham L 28 Mar (JGJ) followed closely by 1 at LM 1 Apr (LMa); first in w NE were 12 at CLNWR 24 Apr (LMa). Best count was a moderate 19 in Dixon Co 11 May (JJo). It is rare in summer in Lancaster Co, where the last migrant was noted 11 May at Lincoln (LEi).

Lark Sparrow: First were 5 at CLNWR 21 Apr (MFr), 1 near Gibbon 24 Apr (LR,RH), and 1 at Arbor Day Farm 24 Apr (LF,CF). Best count was only 12, at CLNWR 8 May (LMa).

Lark Bunting: Few were reported, although somewhat easterly were 1 at Halsey in mid-May (RCG) and another in Phelps Co at about the same time (NOU). First were s of Gering 4 May (AKe) and in Garden Co 7 May (LMa).

Savannah Sparrow: First were 2 birds 3rd earliest on record on 16 Mar at Harvard Marsh WPA (JGJ), followed by 4 at Gleason Lagoon WPA 23 Mar (LR,RH) and 2 at Cunningham L 28 Mar (BP,LP). First in w NE were 2 at CLNWR 23 Apr (LMa). Best counts were 39 in Dixon Co 11 May (JJo) and 20 at Wagontrain L 18 Apr (LEi). Last was 1 at Funk Lagoon WPA 19 May (LMa).

Baird's Sparrow: One of very few documented reports of this presumed migrant was of one seen singing in native grassland n of Long Canyon in Banner Co 10 May (JGJ). Available data indicate that this is the expected time for migrants to pass through in spring.

Grasshopper Sparrow: This species arrived statewide in early May, with 1 in extreme se NE 5 May (WRS), 3 in Sarpy Co 8 May (RBa), 1 at Arbor L WMA 8 May (LEi), 1 near Poole 8 May (LR,RH), and 14 at CLNWR 9 May (LMa). There were few other reports.

LeConte's Sparrow: Somewhat westerly was 1 in Boone Co 11 May (WM). Elsewhere, 3 were reported. One was at Cunningham L 13 Apr (JGJ), rather early, another was at FF 22 Apr (RBa), and a third was at Arbor Day Farm 12 May (LF,CF).

Fox Sparrow: None were reported w of Buffalo Co, where it is rare; 1 was near Gibbon 25 Mar (LR,RH). Two were at Wagontrain L 3 Apr (LEi), where it is uncommon, and all other reports were from the Missouri valley. First was at Arbor Day Farm 24 Mar (LF,CF), best count and last 3 at DeSoto Bend NWR 13 Apr (JGu). Only about 16 were reported in all.

Song Sparrow: A few winter, likely 1 in Cass Co 1 Mar (KDG), and so arrival is difficult to determine. Probable migrants were 12 at Arbor Day Farm 6 Apr; none were seen there after 11 May (LF,CF). Also apparently migrants were 12 at Wolf L on 31 Mar and 6 Apr (THo). A good count of probable summering birds was 18 in Dixon Co 11 May (JJo). Uncommon in w NE, 1 at CLNWR 20 May (MFr) was unexpected.

Lincoln's Sparrow: First was rather early at Harvard Marsh WPA 21 Mar (BP,LP, RBa), followed by 1 at Arbor Day Farm 27 Mar (LF,CF) and 2 at CLNWR 17 Apr (MFr). This species has a long migration period in spring; as many as 44 were still in Sarpy Co 11 May (NAMC), although last were at Halsey in mid-May (RCG) and at Arbor Day Farm 18 May (LF,CF).

Swamp Sparrow: Very early was 1 at Arbor Day Farm 10 Mar (LF,CF), although a few winter on occasion in s and se NE; this bird may have done so. Elsewhere, first were 6 at FF 26 Mar (RBa), and 2 had reached Crystal Cove L by 20 Apr (BFH). Few are reported during

spring migration.

White-throated Sparrow: Essentially an e NE migrant, it is uncommon elsewhere and rare in the panhandle. Thus surprising were 8 at CLNWR 5 May (MFr) and 2 at NPNWR on 5 May (LMa). Still uncommon for the location was 1 banded at Halsey in mid-May (RCG). Probably wintering was 1 at a Bellevue feeder 1 Mar (KCR). First was 1 at Indian Cave SP 12 Apr (RBa). Best counts were 197 in Sarpy Co 11 May (NAMC) and 61 in Lancaster Co 4 May (LEi). Last were 2 at Two Rivers SP 15 May (JGu).

White-crowned Sparrow: Best counts during spring migration for this winter visitor were 62 as late as 11 May in Sarpy Co (NAMC) and 39 in extreme se NE 5 May, the latter of the black-lored eastern race (WRS). Best count in w NE was 21 at CLNWR 5 May (MFr). Last in e NE was in Otoe Co 14 May (LF,CF), in c NE at Gibbon 16 May (LR,RH), and in w NE 1 was in Scotts Bluff Co 25 May (LMa) and another at James Ranch 27 May (SLe).

Harris' Sparrow: Best counts were 235 in Lancaster Co 10 May (LEi), 235 in Sarpy Co 11 May (NAMC), and 100 near Gibbon 27 Apr (LR,RH). Last in e NE was 1 at Omaha 16 May (NR), in c NE 1 at Gibbon 16 May (LR,RH), and in w NE 1 s of Gering 9 May (AKe).

Dark-eyed Junco: Best counts were 170 in Otoe Co 24 Mar (LF,CF), 56 in Dixon Co 24 Mar (JJo), and 55 at Wolf L 31 Mar (THo). Last in e NE was rather late in Otoe Co 5 May (LF,CF), in c NE 1 was in in Adams Co 26 Apr (GJK), and in w NE "slate-colored" birds were last seen at James Ranch 29 Apr (SLe). "Pink-sided" birds were noted e to Buffalo Co, last on 6 Apr (LR,RH). The last "oregon" birds left James Ranch 15 Apr (SLe). The only "white-winged" birds reported were at the James Ranch feeders until 15 Apr (SLe).

McCown's Longspur: None were reported.

Lapland Longspur: Best count was 500 s of Alda in Hall Co 30 Mar (RBa), and "hundreds" in the same area 31 Mar (LR,RH); these were also the last reported.

Chestnut-collared Longspur: None were reported.

Bobolink: First were in e NE, 2 at Arbor L WMA 8 May (LEi); in c NE 5 were near Kearney 10 May (LR,RH), and in w NE first was at CLNWR 13 May (MFr); 8-9 were there by the end of May (LMa,MFr). Best counts were 45 in Sarpy Co 11 May (NAMC) and 26 in Dixon Co the same day (JJo).

Red-winged Blackbird: Best counts were 2000 at Gibbon on 3 Mar (LR,RH) and 2000+ in Dixon Co 10 Mar (JJo). As late as 10 May a flock composed of 80 females was in Lancaster Co (LEi); these would be expected to have spread out onto territories by that date. Resident females are the last group to arrive, behind migrant females (Bent, Life Histories ... 1968).

Eastern Meadowlark: First singing birds were at Arbor Day Farm 15 Mar (LF,CF), and in w NE at CLNWR 10 Apr (MFr); 8 were at CLNWR 29 May (MFr). Best count was 40 in c NE 1 Apr (LMa).

Western Meadowlark: First singing birds were 2 at Offutt Base L 13 Mar (RBa). Best count was 83, in Dixon Co 11 May (JJo).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Rather early were 5 at Funk Lagoon WPA 10 Mar (LR,RH); next was a single in Hall Co 1 Apr (NR). First in w NE was 1 in Sheridan Co 22 Apr (LMa). Best counts were 100 at Harvard Marsh WPA 5 May (WRS), 79 at CLNWR 8 May (LMa) and 75 near Scottsbluff 4 May (AKe). A flock of 25 females was at Pawnee L SRA 4 May (LEi); see comments under Red-winged Blackbird.

Rusty Blackbird: The only reports were from the Missouri valley; 1 was at FF 15 Mar (BP,LP), 12 were in Sarpy Co 26 Mar (RBa), and 20 were in Dixon Co 3 Apr (JJo).

Brewer's Blackbird: Last in e NE (barely), where migrants are uncommon, was an excellent count of 89 in s York Co 19 Apr (JGJ). The only other report from e NE was of 2 in Dixon Co 3 Apr (JJo).

Migrants passed through CLNWR 28 Apr-29 May, most on 1 May, with 15 (MFr).

Great-tailed Grackle: Migrants were on the move in large numbers in mid-Mar, with 112 at Eckhardt Lagoon WPA 16 Mar (JGJ) and 110 at Oak Park L, Lincoln, on 23 Mar (JMo). First male noted at Funk Lagoon WPA, a breeding location, was there 17 Mar (LR,RH). Several were reported n and w of the usual range. Five birds were 4 miles s of West Point on 18 May (JJo), 2-3 were at Wood Duck WMA 28 Apr (CNo) and 24 May (JJo), 7 were counted in Boone Co 11 May (WM), 1 was near mile marker 106 on highway 2 in Grant Co 6 May (DR,RR), and 7 were 5 miles w of Broadwater on 17 May (LMa).

Common Grackle: Best counts were 780 in c NE 31 Mar (LMa) and 150 in s Lancaster Co 3 Apr (LEi). First in w NE, where wintering is rare, were 3 at Gering 4 Apr (AKe) and 1 at CLNWR 9 Apr (MFr).

Brown-headed Cowbird: Rare in winter, first were singles at Gibbon 3 Mar (LR,RH) and in Lancaster Co 16 Mar (LEi). First in w NE were 2 at CLNWR 16 Apr (MFr). Best counts were 191 in Dixon Co 11 May (JJo) and 160 in extreme se NE 5 May (WRS).

Orchard Oriole: First in e NE were singles at Wehrspann L 9 May (NR) and at Wilderness Park the same day (LEi). In c NE 1 was in Adams Co 12 May (GJK), and in w NE first were 3 at CLNWR 19 May (MFr). Best count was 7, in Scotts Bluff Co 25 May (LMa).

Bullock's Oriole: Reports were from the panhandle. Birds without hybrid characters are restricted to the panhandle; observers should check orioles carefully for evidence of hybridization in western sections of major river valleys. First was a male in Deuel Co 19 May (BP,LP).

Baltimore Oriole: Birds which appear to be pure Baltimores occur virtually throughout the state, especially in major river valleys. In some areas, pure birds occur along with those showing hybrid characters; extent of orange on the head, extent of white in the wings, and extent of orange in the outer tail feathers should be examined. Birds reported as "hybrids," without further details, were in Adams Co 17 May (GJK) and at FF 19 May (SWi). First in e NE was in Cass Co 27 Apr (KDG), and in c NE 4 May at Gibbon (LR,RH). Several westerly reports included singles at L Minatare 25 May (AKe,LMa) and at Gering 19 May (AKe), 5 at LM 17 May (LMa), and 1 in Deuel Co 19 May (BP,LP). Most panhandle reports of Baltimores are in spring. Best counts were 119 in Sarpy Co 11 May (NAMC), 39 in a fallow field in Sarpy Co 10 May (NR), and 28 near Poole 18 May (LMa).

Purple Finch: Last were 11 in an Omaha yard 9 Apr (NR) and 1 in Bellevue the same day (KCR). Last in Adams Co were noted 8 Apr (GJK). Few were reported.

Cassin's Finch: The only report was of a pair in Coffee Park, Sowbelly Canyon, 21 May (BP,LP). This rare winter visitor, when present, often remains into late May and then departs. Summer reports are few.

House Finch: One of the few locations where it is still noteworthy, CLNWR, had singles on 7 and 21 Apr (MFr). It is scarcest in the Sandhills.

Red Crossbill: The only report was of 32 in Monroe Canyon 21 May (BP,LP), as well as 2-3 in Sowbelly and West Hat Canyons the same day (BP,LP). This is an expected location, but numbers are variable and unpredictable.

White-winged Crossbill: There were 3 reports of this casual winter visitor. At the Extension Center at North Platte 2 were present 23 Feb through 6 Mar (WWy). A male was at the observers' feeder in Bellevue 15 Mar (BP,LP). At the Oakland Cemetery 7 were photographed 17 Mar (JGJ).

Common Redpoll: This was a good year for this species, with best

count up to 35 at a Wakefield feeder until 3 Apr (JJo), the latter date the last date also. Other reports included the last at Chadron 25 Mar (ZUr) and 2 at Omaha the same day (NR), and 2 at Gibbon 9 Mar (LR,RH). Westerly were 2 at Gering 11 Mar (Sam and Loni Schlothauer, fide AKe).

Pine Siskin: Best counts were 58 at Wildcat Hills SRA 10 Mar (LMa) and 50 daily in Mar-Apr on the UNebr-Kearney campus (LR,RH). A few remained rather late, including several at UNK until 29 May (LR,RH), 1 in Omaha 31 May (CEJ), and 2 at Hummel Park 30 May (NR). Birds remaining into Jun may nest or be nesting.

American Goldfinch: Reports were routine.

Evening Grosbeak: The only report was of 1 at James Ranch as late as 17 May (SLe). Wintering birds generally leave the panhandle by late May, but there are a few summer reports.

House Sparrow: Reports were routine.

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